



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

UC-NRLF

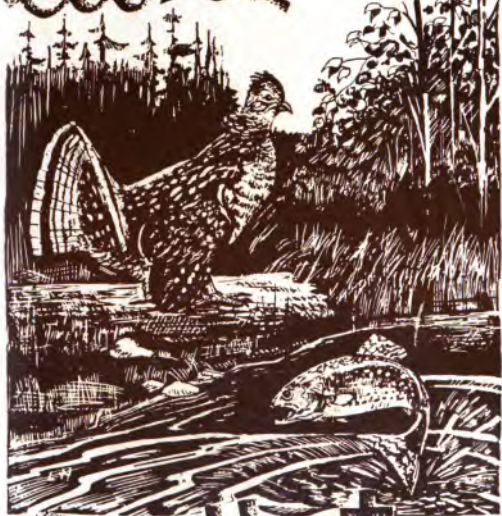


\$B 259 214

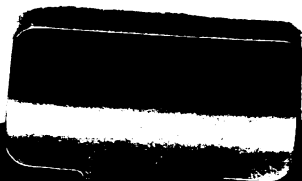
YA 01287

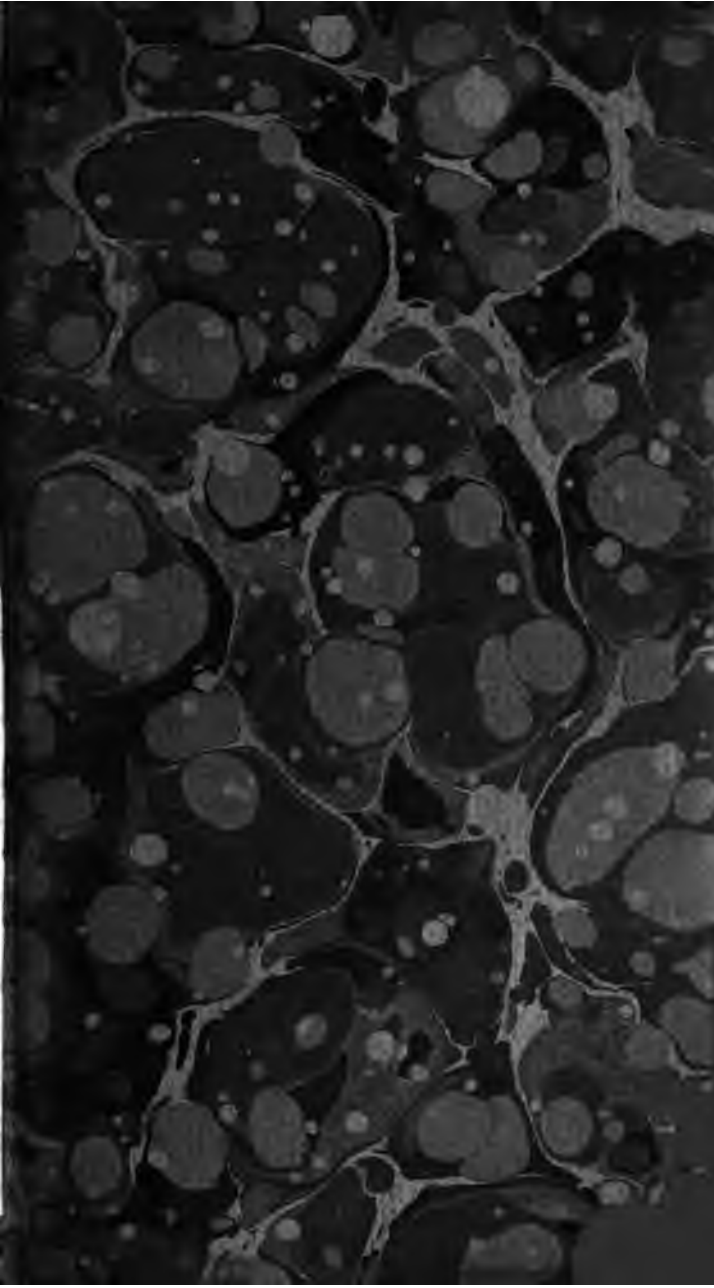
BERKELEY
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

EX
libris



Don Horter



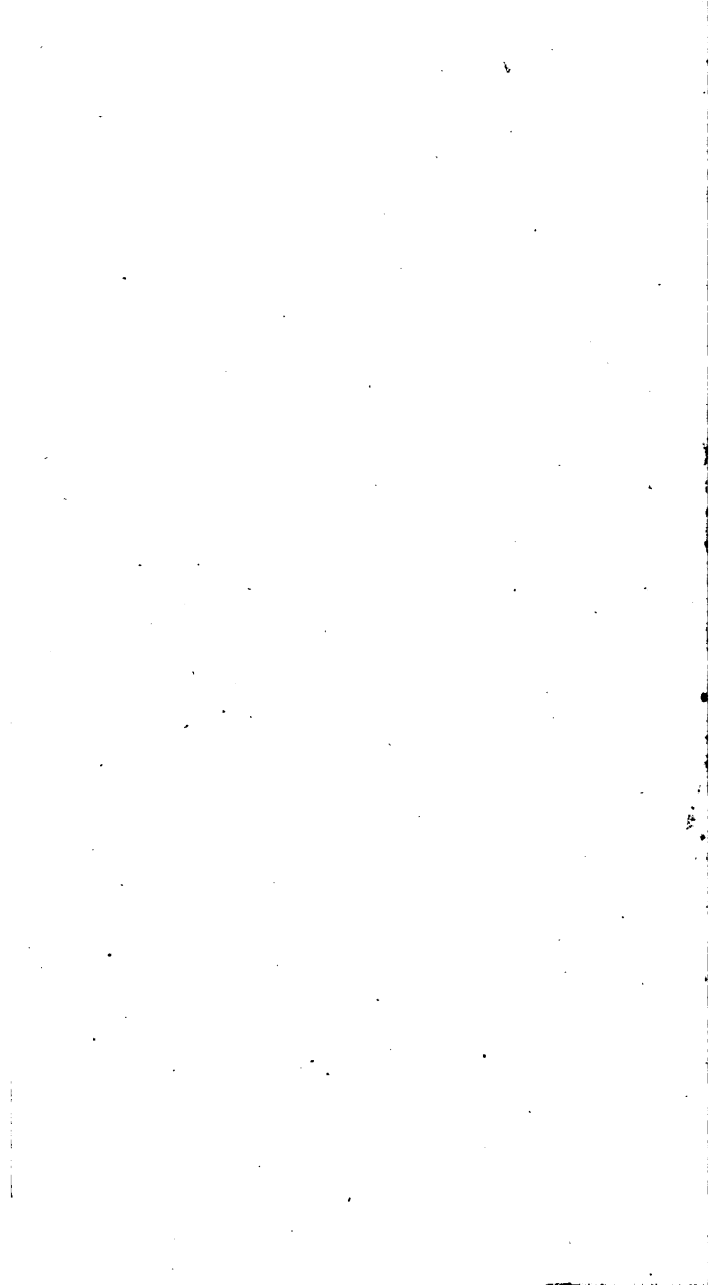






x

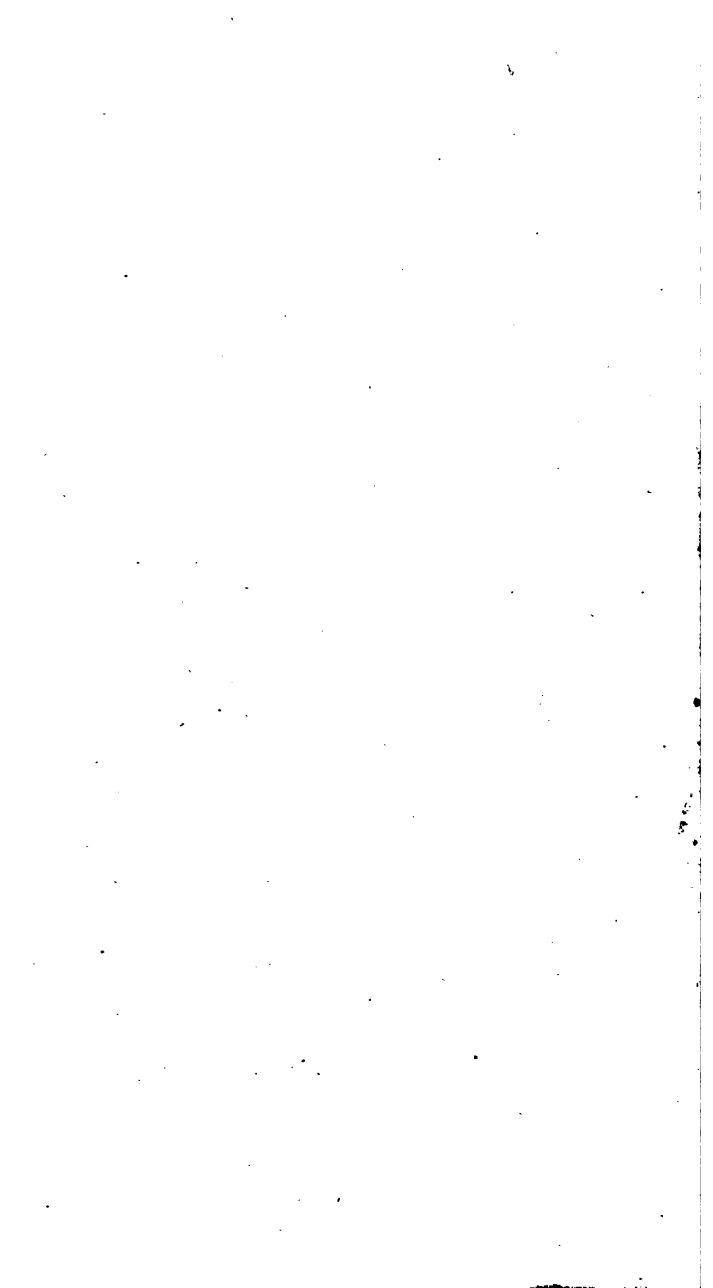
1.4/-



PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

ANGLING.



PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

ANGLING.



Charles Smart

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

ANGLING,

IN THE

RIVER TRENT.

BY

A GENTLEMAN RESIDENT IN THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD,

*And who has made the Amusement his Study for
upwards of Twenty Years.*

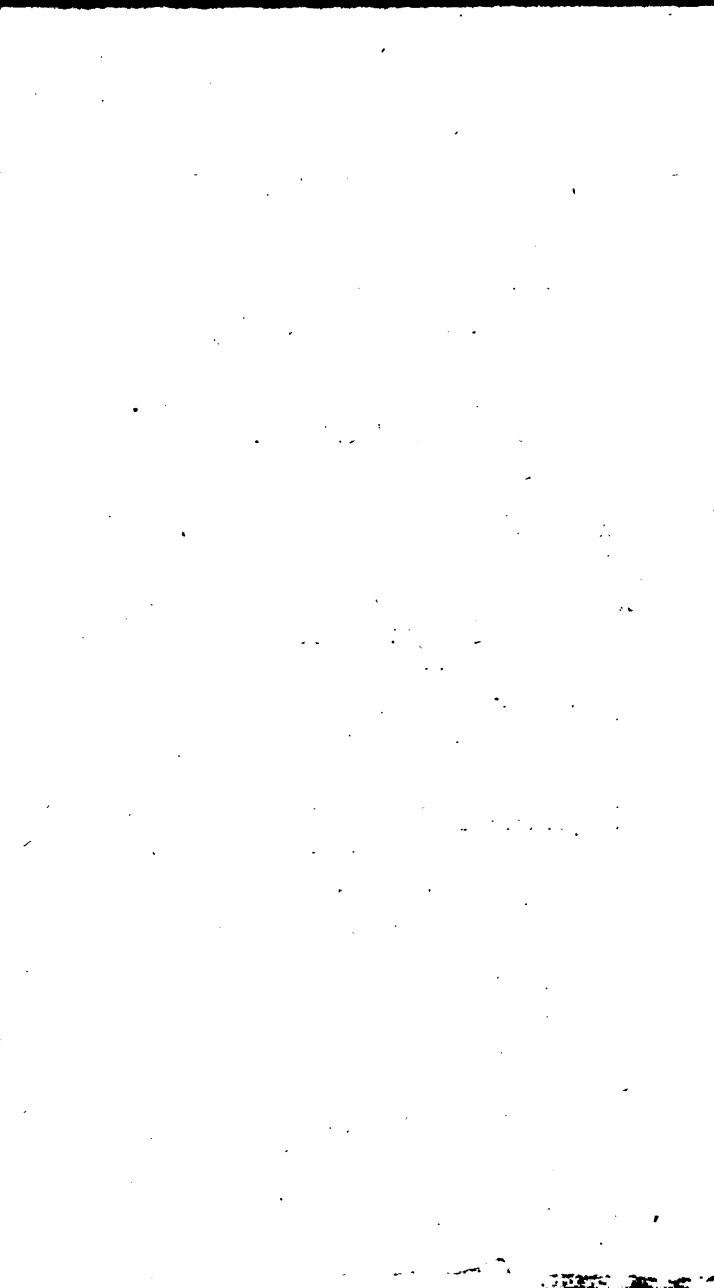
For dear and precious as the moments are,
Permitted man, they are not all for deeds
Of active Virtue. Give we none to vice,
And heav'n will not strict reparation ask
For many a summer's day and winter's eve
So spent as best amuses us.—

VILLAGE CURATE.

NEWARK:

Printed and Sold by S. and I. Ridge.

Sold also by Robinsons, Paternoster-Row, and
Crosby and Letterman, Stationers'-Court,
London. MDCCC1.



SH605
572

To Robert Lowe, Esq. Oxton.

SIR,

I Have ventured to dedicate the following observations on Angling to you, an amusement which in an age of fashionable dissipation like this, has few advocates, I am not vain enough to believe they contain any thing which has escaped *your* attention, or that the few hours leisure which I have devoted to the subject, will be considered by you of greater importance, than to instruct the young angler in the pursuit of a diversion, rational, manly, ~~and entertaining,~~ and which on minute investigation, will be found worthy the attention of sensible men, as it comprehends so considerable a portion of Natural History.

a 3

M846413

Your politeness and liberality (to which I could mention glaring contrasts) will, I am convinced, conduce more to the preservation of your game and fish, than the most rigorous statute promulgated from the bench, or the unwearied vigilance of your gamekeeper, and domestics.

Your knowledge of angling is one of my motives in dedicating this book to you, but I have another, which is to assure you, with what respect I subscribe myself,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

May 1, 1801.

PREFACE.

IT will, I believe, be readily admitted, that human nature is incapable of intense application, and requires some pursuits which may unbend the mind from care, and the more important duties of life; amongst the variety of amusements eagerly sought after by mankind, there is perhaps none better calculated for this purpose, than angling. The solitude, and retirement, inseparable from the diversion, naturally dispose us to meditation, calm and subdue those passions which assail us in crowded cities, and diffuse a peaceful tranquillity, unknown amidst the splendor of courts or the bustle of active life. In contemplating the

works of nature, we shall be lost in admiration, at the wisdom and goodness of God, who has made nothing in vain, and our hearts will be full of gratitude for the blessings we enjoy; the change of seasons, with the decaying verdure will remind us continually of our frail existence, and after having passed through the few fleeting years allotted us here, with meekness content and humility, we shall be better prepared to partake those joys which never fade.

In offering the following observations to the world, on an amusement already crowded with instructions, from the pen of the pious Isaac Walton, and more modern authors, it may be necessary to remark, that invention has introduced various methods of angling, in different rivers,

which are established by long practice, and every one thinks his own mode the best *merely because he has been accustomed to it.* Being fond of retirement and rural scenes, I have had frequent opportunities in my walks by the River Trent, of observing the absurd methods of angling, not only in the choice of hooks and baits, but in places and at times improper for the diversion, and which must have been productive of disappointment, and vexation, and which have given rise to the many jokes and sarcasms bestowed on the angler. This induced me to attempt a short treatise on the subject, appropriated to the use of those who were not proficient in the amusement, and to such I flatter myself it will not be unacceptable.

Notwithstanding I have endeavoured to render the following instructions clear and concise, yet I am sensible (however copious the English language) some difficulties may arise in the application, and which experience only can remove. I have confined myself closely to the subject, avoiding every thing which was not necessary to elucidate the method of angling I have recommended; thus the opinions of the ancients, with many other conceits, of eels being bred from mud, pike from the pickerel weed, and some fish from rain and dew, have been unnoticed since the doctrine of equivocal generation has been justly exploded; these digressions though suited to the time of honest Walton, can be of little use, encrease the size of the book,

and render the art of angling more difficult and prolix.

In the works of various authors on angling, much useful information may be gained, but I fear, they have given to the world, *more than was confirmed by their own experience*, not content with confining their instructions on angling, to fish natives of their own country, we have remarks on every kind of fish, from the diminutive minnow to the enormous whale, and the attention of the astonished reader is, in a very few pages, hurried from the milder climate of Britain, to the frozen banks of Newfoundland.

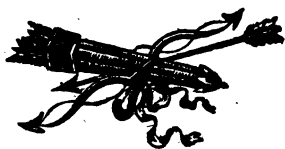
The excellence of an angler consists in combining strength and fineness of tackle, proportioned to the

size, and exertions of the fish he intends to take, he will meet with many disappointments in accomplishing this desirable end, and the utmost of his inventive faculties may be employed in the assemblage of the various materials which nature and art so liberally contribute to his assistance.

Though the observations are local and intended for anglers in the Trent, yet I flatter myself they will be found successful in other Rivers, abounding with the same kinds of fish. Should my labours contribute in the least to the pleasure of this rational and innocent amusement, or encrease the number of its votaries, I shall be amply rewarded,

C. S.

Newark, April, 1801.



OBSERVATIONS ON
A N G L I N G.

SALMON.

AS this fish is constantly found in the River Trent, and many are caught by the Seine, I shall give some directions for taking them by angling, to such as chuse to try, I confess I never caught one, but several have been taken in angling for other fish particularly barbel.

They frequent the deepest parts of the river, where the stream is moderate, near the piers of bridges, and where high banks are worn by floods; for there the water has made a kind of pool by its action upon the

bank. The baits for salmon are the artificial fly, and lob-worm; it is of little consequence what colour your fly is, provided it is large and gaudy, ribbed with gold or silver twist. The best times for angling for salmon, are in a morning from nine to eleven, and in an evening from six to sun-set, especially when there is a moderate breeze upon the water. Your rod for this purpose ought to be fine and strong, with rings for the running line,* which may be made of silk or hair, and ought to be forty yards long at the least, that when hooked, you may, by giving him line, sufficiently tire him; it will, however, require great skill, for he is very strong and will not be easily subdued.

The method of fishing with a lob-worm is most likely to succeed, and is as follows: Take a lob-worm that has been well scoured, and run your hook through the middle,

* It may be necessary here to observe, that when the running line is directed, it will be proper to have a winch or reel upon the butt end of the rod, they are of various sizes and should be proportioned to the coarseness or fineness of the line.

drawing it above the shank, then take another, and bait your hook in the usual way, by putting it into the worm about an inch below the tail, drawing it on the hook about three-fourths of the length, the head of the worm being at the point of the hook, then draw the first worm down to the other, for salmon are fond of a large bait. It will be necessary to have a piece of lead with a small hole through it, and which is called a plumb, fastened upon the line about two feet above the hook, by which means you will be able to keep your bait in any certain place, and drawing your line tight, you will feel the plumb at the bottom, your bait with the link below the plumb, playing with the current; when your bait has remained a few minutes, draw it gently up the stream, about a yard, and let the plumb rest again at the bottom, this will excite the attention of the fish, and frequently tempts them to take the bait; when hooked, the same caution must be used as was directed for the fly, by allowing him plenty of line, only

PIKE

Spawn in March and April, are bold fish, afford the angler good sport, and may be fished for all the year, but the best months are September and October. From March to the end of May, they resort to back waters that have immediate communication with the River; from May to the beginning of October, are to be found in sharp streams under the *Ranunculus aquaticus* which floats on the surface of the water, particularly when in flower; near flags, bulrushes, and water docks; as the season grows colder, and the weeds rot, they retire into the deeps, and are to be found under clay banks, and bushes that hang over the water, stumps and roots of trees, piles of bridges, and decayed water-works that have been made for the protection of land against floods. There are various methods of taking pike, but I shall confine myself to those of angling, deeming the other below the angler's attention; these are by trowling, and the live and dead snap.

For trowling, the rod ought to be fourteen feet long, with rings for the running line, these must be fixed upon the rod in a straight direction, that the line may run freely, as any sudden check after the pike has taken the bait, would prevent his gorging it; the line should be at least thirty yards long, of either silk or hemp, if the latter, and new, it will be proper to let it trail after you on the grass, (as they are in general too hard twisted and apt to kink) by which means it will gradually untwist, be soft, and pass freely through the rings. Hooks for trowling (called dead gorges) may be bought at every shop where fishing tackle is sold, in the choice of them, take care they are not too large, that their temper is not injured by the lead on the shanks, and that the points do not stand too proud. They are usually sold on wire, but I would advise the wire to be cut off about an inch from the shank, and with double silk well waxed, fasten about a foot of good gimp to the wire, with a noose at the other end of the gimp, to hang upon

your line. The best baits are gudgeons and dace, of a middling size, if these are not to be had, roach, bleak, small trout, or salmon fry will do very well; I know some anglers who prefer salmon fry, but these are only to be procured in the River Trent in the spring, and though I have tried them repeatedly never found them equal to dace or gudgeons. In order to bait your hook, you must be provided with a fish-needle (which may be had at any of the shops) they have open eyes and are of various sizes; put the needle in at the mouth of the bait, and out at the middle of the tail, drawing the gimp and hook after it, fixing the point of the hook near the eye; some sew up the mouth of the bait, it will however be necessary to tie the tail close to the gimp, not only to keep it in a proper position, but to prevent the tail catching against weeds and roots in the water; the hook thus baited, hang upon your line, which ought to have a noose large enough to admit the bait, and will save time and trouble. Thus equipt, drop your bait gen-

tly in, near the side of the river, where it is moderately deep, and where pike are likely at that season to resort; let it sink to the bottom and draw it gently up, imitating in the motion a fish hurt or dying, after trying two or three times to the right and left, throw your bait further in, and if you do not meet with success, you may conclude there is not a pike near the place, or that he is not in the humour. When a pike seizes the bait, if you do not see him you will easily perceive it, by your line being drawn tight, and some resistance, you must give him line, and let him go where he will, when he has reached his harbour (which you will know by his not drawing more line) lay down your rod and give him time to gorge the bait, which he will generally do in five minutes, then take up your rod, and draw your line gently, till you see the pike (which he will permit though he has not gorged) if you find the bait across his mouth, give him more time, but if he has gorged govern him with a gentle hand, keeping him however from roots

and stumps, which he will endeavour to make to, and fasten your line, but if the river is clear, you may allow him line till he is sufficiently tired, when with the assistance of a friend, or the convenience of a landing net, you will easily secure him, but you must not by any means, lift him out of the water with your rod and line only, for though to all appearance he may be sufficiently tired, yet the moment he quits the water, he will open his mouth and by tearing his stomach with his own weight, get quit of the hook, and you will have the mortification not only of losing the fish, but of knowing he will inevitably die in the water.

In trowling, when the pike has gorged it is unnecessary to strike, as the hook is in the stomach of the pike and cannot return without some violence, such as attempting to throw him out without drawing him gently to shore when tired, or using the landing net.

It frequently happens, that a pike will

repeatedly seize the bait in trowling, run out a considerable length of line, and afterwards desert it, should you find this the case, you must use the live or dead snap, which will in all probability take him. In trowling, I must caution the angler against throwing the bait too far, in small rivers you may fish the opposite bank with ease, but the breadth of the Trent will make such an attempt impracticable, and the bait will be soon spoilt, as the violence with which it falls on the water will rub off all the scales.

The Live Snap.—The method of fishing with a live bait, or what is called the live snap, is very different from trowling, though any mode of taking pike by angling usually passes under the latter denomination. Your rod and line must be stronger, and the hooks much larger, they consist of two hooks joined back to back, with a smaller hook in the middle of their shanks, on which the live bait is hung, they are sold at the shops, and the sight of one will enable a young

angler to make them of what size he pleases ; the bait is hooked by the small hook, just under the back fin, the point and beard coming out on the other side, and is fastened by strong thread or silk doubled, hung on the point of the small hook, brought under the belly of the bait, and tied on the other side, to the shanks of the large hooks, great care and expedition are required in doing this, otherwise the bait will be so injured, as to be incapable of swimming briskly in the water; roach, dace, or gudgeons are the best baits, a cork float will be necessary about the size of a common burgundy pear, with a small pistol bullet or two, not only to poise it, but to keep the bait a proper depth, which ought to be about two feet or three-quarters of a yard. If a pike happens to be near the place where the bait is put in, it will come to the top of the water to avoid him, or encrease the quickness of its motion, these signs will prepare you to be on your guard; when you perceive your float drawn under the water, be not too eager, but suffer it to

be taken a good depth, then strike with a smart stroke, directly contrary to the course the pike appears to take, and govern him with a tight line, for though the hooks are so much larger and stronger, than that for trolling, yet having hold of the jaws of the pike, which are very hard and bony, he will sometimes escape. It will be prudent to make use of the landing net, if the pike is large, for it is not only a mark of an inexperienced angler, to throw the fish out by a strong exertion, but it will certainly strain the sockets of your rod. A tin bait-pan (that will hold about a gallon) with the top punched full of small holes to admit the air, will be necessary to carry your baits, which in hot weather must have fresh water very often. This method of angling for pike is the most ancient of any, and is now only practised by those who have neither skill or address to pursue the other. It requires great patience, has little exercise, and inconvenient on account of the live baits that are carried from place to place, and has given a decided superiority to the dead snap.

The Dead Snap.—This method of taking pike will be found the pleasantest, and most successful of any; adapted to shallow and deep waters, the still and rapid parts of the river, will take pike at all seasons of the year, when the water is in order and the weather favorable; and it will be no trifling recommendation, to find it free from every idea of cruelty, that fishing with a live bait naturally impresses. Your rod must be longer than that for trolling, but as it would be inconvenient and expensive to have different rods for these purposes, one rod may be made to answer all, by the application of different tops. Your line must be fine and strong, twenty yards will be sufficient; the hooks are made thus: take three large hooks, bigger than those for barbel, and having ground the backs on a fine grinding stone, place two of them back to back, and with strong double silk well waxed, wrap them round four or five times, beginning at the bend, drawing the silk tight every round, place the third hook upon the two first, in a

triangular direction; the shank of this hook must be shorter than the others (though placed even with the ends of them), by which means the point of the hook will be higher; then take ten inches of good gimp, and doubling it, place the two ends on the inside of the two first hooks, and tie the whole round with the silk, proceeding a little above the shanks upon the gimp, which will make it more secure and enable you to bait the hooks easier. The hook when finished will resemble that used for the live snap. The length of the gimp on which the hooks are tied should be proportioned to the size of the bait, and should be rather longer than the distance from behind the back fin, to the mouth, that the looped end may be hung on a strong swivel, tied neatly to about a foot more of gimp, with a noose at the other end, to hang upon your line, fastening a small piece of lead, weighing about an ounce, shaped like a barley corn, with a hole through it, about two inches above the swivel. The method of baiting is

as follows: take a middle sized dace (for they are the best) and run your baiting needle in immediately behind the back fin, and out at the mouth, drawing the gimp upon which the hooks are tied, after it, the short hook must stand with the point upright behind the back fin, the other will consequently be one on each side, then hang it upon the swivel, and try if it will spin, by drawing it against the stream, if it does not, move the bait a little to the right or left, (which you may do without taking it from the hook) for the whole of your success depends on its turning round quick, when drawn against the stream, when it does it is an irresistable bait for pike, and you will be enabled to fish a much greater extent of water than by the other methods.

Large pike though bold in seizing the bait, are very cautious in gorging it; many anglers have experienced, that a large pike after having seized the troll, and taken a considerable length of line, has mumbled

the bait to pieces, and deserted it (occasioned very probably by the lead on the shank of the hook*). This method remedies the disappointment, and a pike has but to seize it to be taken. The motion of the bait (if judiciously managed) resembles a fish disabled, and unable to escape. If the Constitution can bear it, great diversion may be had by going into the water and fishing the weeds in the streams, in the hot months; but the practice is dangerous, not only on account of the partial immersion of the body for any length of time, but to the sudden vicissitudes of heat and cold which prevail in this climate.

* The wisdom and goodness of the Creator are conspicuous in the minutest part of his works, and from a principle of humanity, it is reasonable to conclude, that the teeth of pike are so formed as not only to secure their prey, but from their length to deprive the small fish of all sensation the moment they are seized: the lead on the shank of the trolling hook, presents a great obstacle to this natural conclusion, and is doubtless the reason why the bait in trolling is so often deserted.

BARBEL

Spawn in April, at which time they are out of season; the spawn and liver are very unwholsome, and when eaten, occasion violent sickness. They frequent deep strong currents, and grow to a very large size, I have seen them fifteen and eighteen pounds weight, and afford the angler noble diversion. The best times to angle for barbel, are August and September; and in order to insure success, it will be necessary to bait the place with lob-worms, and new cheese (which is cheap) cut it in small pieces, morning and evening: for this purpose chuse a hole very deep, where the current is moderately strong, and the bottom even; about a quarter of a peck of worms and one pound of cheese is the proper quantity to be thrown in each time; great care must be taken to throw them in high enough up the stream, that they may rest at the place you intend to fish. A tin vessel made in the shape of a funnel, with a ring soldered at the small end and a lid at

the other, that will not open with the weight of the worms and cheese, will be found very useful, tie a strong cord to the ring, and fill it with the worms and cheese cut in pieces, and with a light pole, let it sink to the bottom, a sudden pull will open the lid and leave the baits where you wish; having baited the place in this manner for about a week, it will be fit to fish, and if a rise of water does not happen, you may depend on good diversion. They bite best from day-break to nine in the morning, and from six in an evening till darkness obliges you to give over. Your rod must be very strong, a running line is necessary, either silk or hemp, the bottom link should be made of gut, as directed for salmon, and the hook large and well tempered; use a plumb about two feet above the hook, of sufficient weight to resist the action of so great a depth of water, upon the line, a float is unnecessary. The baits for angling are lob-worms, and new cheese cut in small squares; the worms must be well scoured, for barbel though

they bite freely are nice feeders; having baited your hook, let your plumb sink gently to the bottom, about two yards from the side, or nearer, if there are no ozers or stumps to incommode you, draw your line tight till you feel the plumb at the bottom, which will bend the top of your rod a little, and the bite of a very small fish will be easily felt; when a barbel bites you will perceive it by a sudden jerk, so strong as to endanger your rod being pulled out of your hands, this is the time to strike, not directly upwards, but in the direction your line lies in the water, for instance, if the stream runs from right to left, you will strike to the right, and if the contrary, to the left, it being impossible from the depth of the water and strength of the current that your plumb should be perpendicular, under the top of your rod; when you have hooked him, he will shew you ample diversion, and as he is a leather mouthed fish it rarely happens that the hook misses its hold or tears out, govern him with a tight line not only to keep him

from stumps and harbour, but to prevent his throwing himself across your line, which he will endeavour, his back fin being very sharp and indented like a saw, which will cut your line or damage it very much. The landing net will be requisite, it ought to be so wide as to admit the barbel without trouble, and so deep as to secure him from a sudden spring. You may pursue this diversion morning and evening for a day or two, throwing in worms and cheese; it will then be advisable to desist for a week, and let the fish have rest, baiting the place as usual only more sparingly.

I must add one caution in angling for barbel, which is, never to throw in further than you are enabled by a gentle cast of your rod, letting the plumb fall into the water with as little violence as possible; it is a vulgar error that large fish are in the middle of the river, experience will convince you of the fallacy of this opinion; fish naturally seek food near the banks, agitation of

the water by an injudicious management of the plumb, will certainly drive them away.

It is incredible the quantities of barbel that are sometimes caught by this method. I have been told by persons of great veracity, that they have taken upwards of one hundred weight in one morning; but the diversion of angling is considerably diminished since fisheries are let to greedy men. I should be tempted to enlarge on this subject, by pointing out the great resource fish would afford in times of scarcity would the Legislature interfere and protect the breed from the illegal and rapacious methods of destroying them, but as the discussion would exceed the limits of my undertaking, and considering myself unequal to the task, I shall leave it to some abler pen, not without hope of seeing it accomplished.

I find the following note in Walton's Complete Angler, part 1, page 188, "Fishing for barbel is at best a dull recreation.

“ They are a sullen fish, and bite but slowly.
“ The angler drops his bait in, the bullet*
“ at the bottom of the line fixes it to one
“ spot of the river; tired with waiting for
“ a bite, he generally lays down his rod,
“ and exercising the patience of a setting
“ dog, waits till he sees the top of his
“ rod move; then begins a struggle between
“ him and the fish, which he calls his sport;
“ and that being over, he lands his prize,
“ fresh baits his hook, and lays in for an-
“ other.” I cannot reconcile this descrip-
tion of barbel fishing with my own experi-
ence, I know not any fish which affords the
angler so much diversion, and I am con-
vinced that his annotator would expunge
the observation, should he ever angle for
barbel in the Trent, in the way, and at the
times I have directed. I can smile at the
perseverance of the sea captain, (mentioned
in the same page) who got into his boat on

* In places proper for barbel, a bullet is not of suffi-
cient weight to keep the bait in one spot at the bottom,
and the roundness of its shape adds not a little to
the inconvenience, a flat plumb is greatly preferable.

a monday morning and fished till saturday night, and sometimes for a month without a bite: surely his assiduity with friendly advice might have been better rewarded.— Probably he began late in the morning, and gave over early in the evening, and all this without the caution of previous baiting; under these glaring disadvantages he may fish for barbel till time shall be no more, with as little prospect of success. I have caught three barbel weighing upwards of thirty pounds, before breakfast, but it is to be remarked, that those of about five or six pounds weight afford the best diversion.

Barbel though they afford good diversion to the angler, are little valued by the epicure; they are, however, firmer and better eating than chub.

PERCH

Spawn in February and March, and are esteemed for their fine flavour. They frequent gravelly scours, in an eddy where the stream is gentle and a tolerable depth, near hollow banks, and stumps of trees. They are caught in the Trent as large as three pounds, and contrary to the nature of all fish of prey, in fresh waters, swim in shoals. Perch bite all day, especially if cloudy and a little wind, but the best times are from seven to eleven in the morning, and from three to six in the afternoon. The best baits are small lobworms, which have no ring round them, brandlings, and the worms found in tanners' bark, and rotten thatch. Use a cork float, and fish about six inches from the bottom; should you meet with a good shoal, you may take them all; for they are very greedy, unless one escapes that has been hooked, then all is over, the fish that has been hooked becomes restless and uneasy, and soon occasions the whole shoal to leave the place.

You may angle with two or three rods, laying them upon the bank, you need not be in a hurry to strike, they are sure to gorge. Minnows are good baits, you may use them as directed for the dead snap for pike, your tackle being much finer, the lead lighter, and the hooks and swivels smaller. The link on which the hooks are tied, may be three fine gut twisted together, one alone would be strong enough, but the shanks of the hooks would soon fret it to pieces; fine gimp may be used, as you will frequently meet with a pike, and a very small one will damage the gut, if not bite it to pieces: the baiting needle must be shorter than that directed for pike, and finer wire; you ought to have several of different sizes. The minnow is baited exactly in the same manner as a dace for pike. By this mode of angling with a minnow, you will be more certain of hooking the fish: all fish of prey seize the bait by the middle, where the hooks are placed, and in such directions that they rarely miss, and are more certain than the

common method of fishing with a large hook and a smaller above it; but as the trouble of making and baiting these hooks are less, I shall give directions for making and baiting them. Take a hook, No. 3, which tie to a link of silkworm gut or fine gimp, and about three-quarters of an inch above it tie a smaller, about No. 9, there are small square hooks (called lip hooks) adapted to this purpose only, in order to keep the minnow in a proper position; join this link (which should be about eight inches long) to another, by a small swivel closed at both ends, fastening a small lead weight of the shape directed for pike, about an inch above the swivel: these swivels are to be fastened to the links with fine double silk well waxed, and the end of the upper link formed into a noose (by the same means), to fix to your line. Put the point of the large hook in at the shoulder of the minnow, and down as far as the bend of the hook will permit, bringing the point out so that the tail may be a little curved with the bend of the hook, it will cause it to spin better;

fasten the head with the small hook by running it through the middle of the bottom jaw, and out at the top of the upper jaw. The recommendation of this mode, is the readiness of baiting the minnow, though the other is more certain of hooking the fish.

Perch are also caught in streams, by going in and stirring up the sand and gravel with your feet, in the way directed for gudgeons, using a small cork float, and baiting with red worms. There are few baits perch refuse.

CARP.

Though very few of these fish are caught in the Trent, yet as many ponds in the county of Nottingham are stocked with them, it may not be improper to give some instructions for taking carp by angling, as they constitute one of the principal dishes at genteel tables: though it is universally believed that the encomium bestowed upon them by epicures, is more owing to the

richness of the sauce and the mode of cooking them, than to any superior flavour of their own. All authors agree that carp are very shy and subtle, on which account it will be advisable to keep out of sight, and use a long rod, with the running line. Having chosen the deepest part of the pond, near the side, where the bottom is free from roots, weeds, and rubbish; it should be baited with lob-worms, boiled malt, and crusts of white bread cut in small pieces and soaked in milk, at least three or four days before you begin to angle. Your tackle must be strong and fine, the bottom links three fine silk worm gut twisted together, the hook proportioned to the size of the carp, with which the pond is stocked. Carp in some ponds are very large, I have seen them eight pounds weight. The best times to angle for carp, are the months of May, June, and July, if the weather is warm, from day-break to eight o'clock in the morning, and from sunset till night. A variety of baits are recommended for carp; I never found any supe-

rior to a well scoured lob-worm of a middle size; it will be adviseable to fish with two hooks, the one within an inch of the bottom, and the other a foot above it, using a small cork float, which I believe is far preferable to a quill float, as the cork in its natural colour resembles a decayed piece of wood, which is often seen floating near the sides of a pond, and a quill float will not sustain the weight of a lob-worm. Carp will suck the bait some time before they gorge, and when hooked must be governed with a tight line, to prevent them entangling your line in the weeds and roots of the water dock, which are very tough. A landing net will be very useful. Boiled peas buttered are said to be good baits,* I do not approve of them for large carp, as a single pea will not sufficiently hide the hook, and more than one have a clumsy, and very unnatural appearance: a ripe cherry is much

* See Brooke's art of Angling, where buttered peas are strongly recommended, the advice has this advantage, that if carp will not take them, the angler may.

more likely to succeed, on account of the size of the bait.

CHUB

Spawn about March, are in season the rest of the year, but best in winter; they frequent sharp streams, and deep holes under ozi-ers, with clay or gravelly bottoms; the large ones bite best very early in a morning, and are to be caught by dibbling with a black beetle humble bee, or any large fly; but the best bait for this purpose, is the brown beetle or cockchafer. Your rod and line must be strong, and it will be convenient to use a running line, the better to enable you to fish under bushes. Having procured some brown beetles, which are plentiful in June and July, they may be found in the day-time resting on the maple, oak, or ozi-ers, and are to be seen flying about in the evening. You should be at the river by day-break, and having baited your hook, wave it two or three times near the surface, as in the act of flying, then let it drop softly

on the water, and shake your rod gently, which will give it the appearance of struggling to escape, this will attract the attention of the chub, and two or three will rise at a time, for they are remarkably fond of this bait. His resistance when hooked, is great at first, but he is soon subdued; his weight however, will make the landing net necessary, and useful, as the likely places for chub are those where you cannot get to the water side to land him with your hands.

They bite at gentles, paste, grasshoppers, worms, snails, wasps, and dock grubs, and the artificial fly, which should be gaudy; black and dun flies, ribbed with gold or silver twist, will succeed very well in streams. Minnows, small dace, and gudgeons, are excellent baits for the large ones, and may be fished with as directed for perch. Chub will also take small gudgeons in the way you troll for pike, the hook ought not to be so heavy leaded upon the shank; they gorge immediately on taking the bait. The spinal

marrow of a beast is said to be a good bait in winter, they who angle for chub at that season richly deserve them.

All the caution necessary in angling for chub, is to keep out of sight, for they are very timid. Chub stewed as carp, will deceive a connoisseur.

GRAYLING

Are good all the year, but in high season in December. They frequent rapid streams, particularly those at Hazleford Ferry and Fiskerton; they will take all the trout baits except the minnow, particularly small artificial flies, red worms, and gentles, as these fish are more apt to rise than descend; in fishing with gentles use two or three hooks; and fish with them as with the artificial fly, they are very simple, and will rise repeatedly at the bait should you chance to miss them; small hooks are necessary, and great caution must be used in landing them, as they are very tender mouthed. I have frequently caught

them in fishing for gudgeons, by going in and stirring up the sand and gravel. I never caught one with a minnow, probably those I used were too large; very small minnows with hooks proportioned to their size, might be tried with some prospect of success, though I do not recommend this bait, notwithstanding Walton's authority.

FLOUNDERS

Spawn in June and July, and are in season the rest of the year; they are to be found near eddies where the stream is gentle, with a gravel or sandy bottom, especially if there is a gentle declivity, where they delight to sun themselves. They bite all day, but best in warm weather with a little wind; the bait for them is a lob-worm well scoured, your hook must be as small as you can conveniently bait, and you must fish at the bottom; if you use a float, the lead to poise it being at the bottom, it will lie flat on the water; when it cocks up, you may conclude a flounder has hold of the bait, ease the rod for he will

suck the bait some time, but is greedy and sure to gorge it. Flounders are fish of prey and will take minnows, and other small fish. I have caught many in the way directed for perch, using smaller hooks, fishing closer to the bottom, and drawing the baited fish more gently up the stream; as they have small mouths you will sometimes miss them, but they will bite again immediately.

Flounders are caught by pin lines, which are made as follows: Take good strong twine (not too hard twisted) of what length you chuse, but twenty yards is the most convenient, as they may be more easily thrown in, and fasten links of nine hairs each, at somewhat less than a yard distant from each other, allowing at each end of the twine sufficient length to fasten a weight or flat stone; tie pins to the loose ends of the links, beginning at the middle of the pin, and proceeding to the head, cutting off the hair close before you fasten, and wrapping the silk over the ends of the hair, or it will

prevent the worm passing on the pin. The pins are baited with half a lob-worm, by putting the point of the pin into the end of a crow quill, and drawing the piece of worm upon it nearly to the end which is not broken, you will easily feel the pin head, which holding between the finger and thumb nails, draw the quill out, the point of the pin will prevent the worm coming off, you may by this means bait the pins very expeditiously. Tie a weight to each end of the line, and throw it in rather slanting across the river, that the stream may carry the baits free of the line; take care the worms do not trail on the ground, which would cause the points of the pins to come out. You may either fasten a yard or two of twine to the end of the line, and peg it to the bank with a short stake, or you may draw it out with a drag, which is used when the lines are left, to prevent their being stolen. This drag is made by running about half a pound of melted lead upon three pieces of iron wire, placed in fine moist sand or clay, so that

they may stand in a triangular direction; a piece of wire about ten inches doubled, and the ends turned again, will form two of these hooks, and a loop to fasten the drag line, the length of which may be fifteen yards, more will be useless, as the flounder line ought not to be so far from the side; the wire should not be too strong, as the drag frequently catches against stones, weeds, and stumps of trees; the wire by bending will not endanger the loss of your drag, and yet be sufficiently strong to draw the flounder line and weights to shore. These lines may continue in the water two hours, and if you have a score will keep you in constant employment through the day, to bait and draw, beginning at the first that was thrown in, and continuing to draw and bait them again, in the order they were laid. To get the flounders off, take short hold of the link and pull gently, the pin will bend and come out easily, and may be straightened again with your fingers. The worms you intend that day for baits must be sprinkled with sand,

which will enable you to bait the pins more readily. A boat will be useful in laying these lines, but you must be careful to free the flounder line after the first weight is thrown in, or it will drag with the boat, and the line will not lie in the place you wish.

Flounder lines will take eels, but not large ones, they must be well dried or they will soon rot.

I cannot quit the subject without remarking an error, which even the learned annotator on Walton, has committed in his Complete Angler, sixth edition, page 182, (a book I have read with great satisfaction, not only for the instructions it contains on angling, but for the simplicity and unaffected piety, which is so conspicuous in every page) he there observes, that flounders are seldom caught by angling. Every schoolboy who has angled in the Trent, can contradict this assertion; I have known ten pounds weight taken by two anglers in one afternoon, and

a much greater quantity in the same time by flounder lines. I have caught them by angling with lobworms, nearly a pound weight each; and with a minnow, I caught one in 1799, that weighed twenty three ounces.

EELS.

It has long been a matter of doubt how eels are produced, the general opinion is, that they are viviparous; however, leaving this disputed point to be settled by naturalists, I shall instruct the angler how they may be caught. In the day-time they delight in still waters, amongst weeds, under roots of trees, and large stones; the best bait for angling is the lobworm, your hook should be small, about No. 3 or 4, and it will be proper to use a small plumb, or pistol bullet. They bite best in dark cloudy weather, after showers attended with thunder and lightning; use a running line, and be not too hasty when they bite. The large ones are caught in the night, by lines as directed for flounders, except having small strong hooks

instead of pins, and the links should consist of twelve hairs. It is a matter of little consequence where they are laid, for they will succeed in streams as well as still waters. Eels rove about in the night, especially in streams, in search of prey, and there is scarce a bait but they will take; such as frogs, black snails, worms, roach, dace, gudgeons, bleak, minnows, loaches, pieces of lamprey, and millers' thumbs. The following is the best method of taking large eels. Having made a sufficient quantity of links of twelve hairs, double them and tie a small strong hook to each link, (the common small barbel hook is best for this purpose) having an equal number of strong whipcord lines about twelve or fifteen yards each, which have been used and are soft, such as old trolling and barbel lines; fasten one end to a small stake of ash or hazel, about a foot long and pointed at one end, make a noose at the other end of each line large enough to admit a dace or gudgeon, and fasten a bullet about a foot from the noose; take the links and

bait them with gudgeons, roach, dace, or minnows, (but gudgeons are best) by making an incision with the point of the baiting needle at the shoulder, running it under the skin and out at the middle of the tail, drawing the link after it; the point of the hook should be upright towards the back, and it matters not how proud, for eels are very voracious. Having baited the whole, wrap them in a wet linen cloth, and put them carefully at one end of your pannier, the stakes with the lines being at the other; take them in the evening to the river, and unwinding a line from the stake, peg it fast to the ground near the side; take one of the links baited, put the noose of the link upon the line, and drop the bait through the noose upon the line; thus all is fast, without the trouble of tying knots, or what is worse the trouble of untying them, after the lines have been in the water. Throw the bait in a good way, but not to the extent of the line, as eels will run a little before they gorge: you may lay one hundred of these lines in a

short time: an eel less than a pound will gorge the baits, but what you take in general will be large. You must rise early in the morning to draw them, and you will find such of the lines as have eels at them, drawn exceeding tight; the large ones seldom fasten the lines, but the small ones will twist themselves so fast that you will have some trouble to disentangle them. Dark nights in July, August, and September, are the best for this diversion.

It may with some propriety be observed, that this method of taking eels does not come within the province of the angler; I have to remark, that it is the only way of taking large eels, except by nets, and these are not allowed but to proprietors and renters of fisheries: another reason more forcible is, that eels are transitory like woodcocks, continually moving from place to place, and are fair game to the possessor or first fortunate captor; besides these lines seldom take any other fish, except eel-pouts and chub; pike do not

prey in the night, so that a fishery cannot be injured by them.

EEL-POUTS

Are esteemed preferable to eels, though in appearance a very unpleasant fish; the places of their resort the same, and are caught with small gudgeons, loaches, and minnows with single lines, as directed for large eels, they prey only in the night, and on this account are seldom taken by angling.

TENCH

Delight in still waters, with muddy bottoms, they are however a beautiful fish, and esteemed for their flavour; they are caught in the Trent, though not frequently, but seldom exceed three pounds weight. The baits for tench are the same as directed for carp; red worms dipped in tar, and the inside of a roll made into paste with honey, are said to be good baits; the best times to angle for them are in the hot months, very early, or after sun-set; the place ought to be pre-

viously baited, with lobworms, and boiled malt; you must fish at the bottom, they bite freely and are easily taken. I cannot pass unnoticed the general opinion, that the slime of the tench is of a healing nature, on which account it is said, pike will not prey on them. I fear this observation is given to the world without any evidence to support it, and I attribute this supposed self-denial of the pike to a different cause: tench are fond of mud and are constantly at the bottom, where they are probably secure from the attacks of their voracious neighbour.

BREAM

Spawn in June and July, and are best in season in September; they grow to a very large size, I have seen them five and six pounds. The large ones are called carp-bream, as they are yellow, resemble the carp in colour, and are supposed to be a distinct species from the white bream. They frequent the broadest parts of the river, where it is deep, and the stream gentle. The best

months are August and September, very early in the morning, or after sun-set. The lobworm is the best bait for large ones, and the place ought to be baited with them some time before you angle. Use a running line, and a plumb as directed for barbel, the hook must be smaller, No. 2 or 3, will be the proper size.

They afford excellent diversion, being very strong, and from their shape draw a great deal of water.

White bream are caught by using boiled malt alone, as a ground bait, baiting your hook with gentles or well scoured red worms; and are found in the same places, and fished for exactly in the same manner as directed for roach and dace, observing to fish nearer the bottom.

In the year, 1787, upwards of eleven hundred weight of carp-bream were caught, by one draught of the seine, a little above

the Lawn, belonging to Roger Pocklington Esq. at Winthorpe, and it was supposed that a greater quantity escaped, by means of a large hawthorn tree being inclosed in the net, which rolling over, prevented that part of the net reaching the bottom. This place is an excellent nursery for fish, and can only be drawn with success, when the river is very low.

ROACH AND DACE.

Roach spawn in May, Dace in March, and are in season all the year. As the method of fishing for them with a ground bait is the same, I have classed them together. They frequent deep water, near piles of bridges, and water-works, where the stream is gentle: by baiting a hole a day or two, with half a peck of boiled malt, you may expect good sport. They bite best from three in the morning, to nine; and from four in the afternoon, till night obliges you to give over. Your tackle must be fine and strong, as roach in the Trent grow to

a good size. I have caught them upwards of a pound. Use a rod not exceeding six feet, a line something shorter, of six hairs, and about two feet of silkworm gut for the bottom links, a swan quill float, and small hooks, about No. 11 or 12, though they should be stronger wire than those usually sold of these sizes. Roach seldom break the hook in the water, yet they frequently break the beard when pulled out, by springing about, their mouths being very bony. The baits for roach and dace are very numerous; the best are gentles, red paste and boiled wheat and malt; the gentles of a pale red colour, used with a white one, are often taken by roach and dace, in preference to any other bait; gentles are not so good after sheep-washing time. Red paste is an excellent bait; but it will be prudent to take more than one kind of bait, roach and dace are very capricious, and in the course of a morning or evening, will shun the bait they had taken just before, and after a short time, return to it again with great avidity, reject-

ing all others. In angling with paste, you must be attentive and strike quick; when you use boiled wheat or malt, chuse those corns that are plump and soft, one is sufficient, put your hook into it so that the point may lie where it is burst and where the white appears, you will hook the fish more easily. Roach and dace with fine tackle afford good diversion, and great quantities are caught at a time. When you begin, throw a good handful of the boiled malt into the hole, and continue to throw in some whilst you fish, but sparingly.

A small landing net will be very useful; in landing the large ones, draw them a yard or two below the place where you fish, it will occasion less disturbance in the hole.

In summer, dace also frequent sharp gravelly scours, and may be caught with small artificial flies, particularly the ant fly, and black and dun ones.

RUFF, OR POPE

Delight in deep holes that are quiet; they bite very freely, and will take gentles and white paste, but the best bait is a red worm. Use a small cork float, two or three hooks about six inches distant from each other, and having found their haunts, you may take forty or fifty at a standing, as they swim in shoals. They seldom exceed five or six inches in length, but are well tasted, and very nourishing.

BLEAK

Are seldom angled for, being a fish little valued, except for want of better baits for other fish; they may be caught in the place baited with boiled malt for roach and dace, by using a small hook with a single gentle, fishing about half a yard deep. They will take artificial flies, they must be very small, and you may fish with three or four as directed for salmon fry.

GUDGEONS

Spawn in March, and are in season all the year; they bite freely. The best baits are small red worms; they are caught in swift streams with a gravelly or sandy bottom, by going into the water and stirring up the sand and gravel with the feet, but as I hinted before, the practice is dangerous. A small flat bottomed boat will be useful for this kind of fishing, and avoid the bad consequences; it may be kept in a certain place by a small anchor or large stone, stirring up the gravel and sand with a boat hook; this is an agreeable amusement for ladies fond of angling, as they bite all day, and to them will afford good diversion. Use a short rod and line, with a quill float, the hook must be small, and let the worm drag at the bottom.

MINNOWS, LOACHES, AND MILLERS' THUMBS.

These small fish complete the list of fish caught in the Trent, they are used for baits,

and a small meshed casting net will be very serviceable, and save a great deal of trouble, as plenty for a day's diversion may be caught at a throw or two, in shallow streams. Minnows are preferred to either loaches or miller's thumbs. I have used small dace instead of minnows (which are sometimes difficult to procure) with such success, as induces me to believe they are superior for chub; they are doubtless brighter, and of course more easily discerned. If you are not in possession of a minnow net, they may be caught with a piece of small red worm, a very small hook, and a crow quill float; minnows will hang to the end of the worm, and thus suffer themselves to be pulled out. Loaches and miller's thumbs may be used for want of better baits; they may be seen sunning themselves on flat stones in a bright day, in shallow streams, and will bite at a small red worm put near them.

TROUT.

Notwithstanding Mr. Taylor's Authority,* very few of these excellent fish are caught in the river Trent, yet as the river Greet near Southwell, abounds with trout, which are said to equal those in the lake of Geneva, in flavour; I cannot resist the temptation of giving some instructions for taking them by angling. There are few fish that afford the angler such diversion, or require such skill and circumspection to take them. It will be in vain to angle when the water is low, by being kept up at the mills; they then retire under the banks and roots, and refuse all kinds of baits: they are at all times exceedingly shy, quick-sighted, and circumspect; on this account it will be necessary to use a long rod, and keep out of sight. In a dark cloudy day after a gentle shower, when the mills are going, there are few baits they refuse; such as minnows, worms, gentles, snails, the young brood of wasps, and hornets, dock grubs, and flies of all kinds, in

* Taylor's Angling, page 30.

their proper season. The baits I have found most successful, are, minnows, small dace, brandlings, marsh, and red worms, the may-fly or green drake, the grey drake, the stone-fly, the bracken clock, and the brown beetle. These flies must be dibbled with; the river being much incommoded with trees and hop plantations, you cannot use a long line except in very few places.

Minnow Fishing.—The rod for this purpose, as well as every other method of angling for trout, must be long and light in hand, with rings for the running line, which may be either silk or hair, (fine raw silk twisted together, makes excellent lines for this purpose) and about three feet of stout silkworm gut for the bottom links, with two or three small swivels which will prevent the line from twisting, and cause the minnow to spin better; if you use three hooks as directed for pike, the bottom swivel must be open at one end, that the link on which the hooks are tied, may be taken off occasion.

ally to be baited, the proper size of these hooks, is No. 7, the success I met with in adopting this method for pike, induced me to try it for perch, and afterwards for trout, and can assure the reader, it exceeded my expectations. If you prefer the old method of a large hook and a smaller above it, the proper sizes will be No. 2 and 6, the manner of making and baiting these hooks has been already described. As minnows are sometimes difficult to procure, in order to prevent an unnecessary waste, they may be taken to the river alive in a bait pan, and what are not used may be put into a stone trough or other vessel in which they are kept; those of a middle size are best, and such as are caught in streams are brighter and greatly preferable to those caught in ditches, and stagnated waters.

The best places for trout, are, the upper part of a deep hole, under bushes which overhang the water, under banks where the violence of the stream causes an eddy, and

the water runs round in whirlpools; a little experience will soon point out the likely places, much better than any pen can possibly describe. With a running line you may permit the minnow to be carried by the stream under bushes and cover, where you could not fish with a common line: when the minnow has been carried to the place you wish, which is not to be done all at once, but by suffering the stream to gain upon it as you draw it back, which prevents it sinking to the bottom, and entangling the hooks; draw it gently against the stream, favouring the direction you would have the minnow take, it will of course spin round very quick, and this is the time that a trout usually takes it; by holding the rod firm he will infallibly hook himself, spring out of the water several times, and by an astonishing strength and agility endeavour to get quit of the hook; do not be too hasty, or attempt to throw him out; lower your right hand, which will raise the top of your rod, and keep it bent; by this means you may humour him till he

is completely tired, but it will be some time before he will suffer you to take him out with the landing net, and therefore I must caution you against bringing him to the top of the water as soon as hooked, for being exceedingly shy, he will spring and plunge violently, endanger your rod and line, or break the hooks if high tempered: the only way of preventing such a disappointment, is, to keep him in the water as deep as you can.

In angling with the minnow, various hooks are made use of, that most in vogue with fashionable anglers, consists of a large hook as directed for perch, with two very small hooks fastened back to back, to a short piece of gut about two inches long, with a small hook to another piece of gut something shorter, to fasten the head of the minnow; these pieces of gut are attached to the link at such distances, that the two small hooks may be about the middle of the minnow, when baited and the other reach the head; a small lead

cap slides upon the link, keeps the short pieces of gut close, and falls upon the head of the minnow; no other weight is necessary. The advocates for this plan, boast of the certainty of hooking the trout with the two small hooks; this may be true, but I would ask if these small hooks are sufficient to kill a trout of any size, as they seldom exceed No. 12, and when a fish is hooked by these, the other hooks are entirely useless, from the situation in which they are placed; another objection is, that when the gut to which they are tied has been in the water a short time, it will not sustain the weight of the hooks, but they will sink below the minnow, and are continually catching against weeds and pieces of rubbish lodged at the bottom of the river; besides the lead cap falling on the head of the minnow, totally conceals the eyes, parts of the bait adding life and attraction to it, and on that account so essential to be seen.

Worms are good baits throughout the

year, especially small lob worms, red worms, marsh worms, and brandlings, well scoured; use a running line, and silkworm gut for the bottom, the hook No. 4 or 5, and the shot about a foot distant from the hook; a float is seldom used, the bait being suffered to be carried down by the stream: if you use small red worms, put two or three on the hook, but one lobworm is sufficient; dock and wasp grubs, gentles, and white snails, may be fished with in the same way, they are sometimes used with a worm, but the two first are very tender.

In the year 1779, I was fishing in the Greet, in company with two very expert anglers, and at that time knew very little of any other mode of angling for trout but with a worm; my companions had plenty of minnows, and knowing the superiority of the bait, proposed several trifling wages on their skill, which I was induced to accept, from a perfect knowledge of the river, having fished there when a schoolboy. I had

little chance with them at first, but some heavy showers having fallen the preceding evening, the water became discoloured, and their minnows useless; they had recourse to worms, and the stock was soon exhausted: we had taken eight brace of trout, and about fourteen pounds weight of eels, and were pretty equal in success. Thus circumstanced, we sought for baits under cow dung, and large stones: in the course of my search, I found two white snails, which I was determined to try; I had scarce put in my hook baited with one, when I perceived a fine trout dart from under a tree root at the bait, which I caught, he weighed about two pounds; with the addition of a small bad worm to the remainder of the snail, I soon caught another trout, near the same size, and immediately in the same spot a third, much larger, with the remaining snail; and I could discover evident signs of envy and chagrin in the countenance of one of my companions, who assisted me in landing it: this gave me a decided superiority over

them both, and was productive of many jokes, though I did not then discover the secret cause of my success.—I have introduced this short digression, to prove from what trifling circumstances information may be gained, and I believe that these recitals constitute a principal part of the pleasure arising from all rural amusements.

As I hinted that the situation of the river winding between plantations of hops, and the banks crowded with alder trees, would preclude the idea of using the long line and artificial fly, and as the natural flies are all (except the bracken clock and brown beetle) too tender to be used with the long line, I shall give directions how they may be used to more advantage, by dibbling; a mode of angling with natural flies, by waving them over the water, and letting them fall gently on the surface, under bushes, and where it would be impossible to make use of the long line and artificial fly, though this mode of angling has less exercise to recommend it,

yet larger fish are taken by it. It requires a stiff rod, and a stronger line may be used, as the line is never in the water except you have hooked a fish; the bottom part ought to be stout silkworm gut, and the hook proportioned to the size of the fly, about No. 3 for the brown beetle, and No. 7 for the other flies; it will be adviseable to put on two flies when they are small, as in this state they frequently fall into the water, they will not only have a natural appearance but better hide the deceit.

My reason for recommending stronger tackle is, that the best diversion may be had in very confined situations, where skill and management can be of little use, your dependance must be entirely on the strength and goodness of your tackle. In the list of natural flies, the hawthorn fly, the green and grey drake (or may flies as they are generally called), the stone fly, the canon or downhill fly, the brown beetle or cockchafer, and the bracken clock, used this way will be found very killing baits.

Trout being so beautiful, the angler will be ambitious of exhibiting the spoils of the day, in as favorable a light as he can; for this purpose, his fishing pannier should be large enough to admit them their full length, strewing a little hay or grafs between them. Many anglers (who have no other object in view than a lounge) put the fish in their pockets, which after a hot day and a long walk, have so disgusting an appearance, that it would puzzle an able naturalist to say, at first sight, to which class in the creation they properly belonged.

The river Greet is as fine a trout stream as any in the kingdom, and trout weighing upwards of five pounds have been caught in it, but owing to the unaccountable neglect of gentlemen and proprietors of land residing in the neighbourhood of this beautiful river, it has suffered considerably from the depredations of poachers, and the many unfair and illiberal practices which have been used, to take and destroy the fish.

RUD.

The rud is very scarce in many counties; they are frequently caught in the Trent, though it is believed they are bred in the fleets,* and escape in high floods into the river; they are doubtless a distinct species, though an opinion prevails, that they are produced by the bream and roach. They delight in ponds and still waters, where they breed uncommonly quick, and grow to a good size, I have seen them above a pound weight each; they are strong, and with fine tackle afford good sport; they are to be caught exactly in the same way as directed for roach and dace, using a ground bait of boiled malt, and baiting the hook with a small red worm, or gentles, but the red worm is the best bait. They are firmer and much better eating than roach.

* The fleets are large pieces of standing water, and are supposed to have been the ancient course of the river Trent; they are very deep, and abound with pike, perch, eels, carp, tench, roach, and rud.

THINGS NECESSARY AND USEFUL
IN ANGLING.

A Twisting engine.

Hooks of various sizes, untied to bottom links.

Hooks, tied to bottom links, of coarse and fine gimp, twisted and single silkworm gut, and of white and sorrel horse hair.

Small pistol bullets and shot cleft to poise your floats, which are put on the bottom links and neatly closed.

Cork and quill floats.

Two pocket books with partitions,—one for fine tackle, for trout, perch, roach, dace, bream, gudgeons and smaller fish,—the other for pike, barbel, chub, and eels.

Two casting nets,—one for roach, dace, and gudgeons, baits for pike and eels,—the

other a very small mesh, for minnows, loaches and smaller fish, baits for trout, chub, perch, and flounders.

Bait pans of different sizes, the tops punched full of holes, and not so large that the baits may escape, when the bait pan is put into the river, which keeps them cool, and supplies them with fresh water.

Two landing nets,—one proportioned to the size of pike, barbel, and chub,—and a smaller for trout, bream, roach, and eels; these are preferable to landing hooks in securing fish, when sufficiently tired, though the latter are useful to disengage the line from weeds and stumps in the water, and from branches of trees growing on the banks.

Canvasses and woollen bags of various sizes, for large and small worms, and boiled malt.

Tin boxes of various sorts, for gentles, paste, and natural flies; those for natural flies, with the tops punched full of small holes to admit the air.

Two panniers,—one to carry pike, barbel, and chub,—the other for trout, perch, roach, dace, bream, and gudgeons. As these panniers are very light, chuse them large enough to admit the fish their whole length.

Baiting needles of various sizes, from three inches to six inches long.

Lead plumbs, for barbel and eel fishing, of different sizes, proportioned to the depth of the water and strength of the current, they are sold of various shapes, but the flat ones are best.

Plummets of tea lead, to find the depth, in angling for perch, flounders, chub, roach, dace, ruff, and gudgeons, when a float is used.

Silk of various colours, hooks for worm fishing are usually tied on with scarlet silk, and those for gentles, yellow paste, and grubs with straw coloured.

Wax pitch tempered with tallow, makes the best wax.

A clearing ring to free the hook when entangled. These are made of brass or lead, and are put on the butt end of the rod, and conducted down the line by a piece of strong twine to where the hook is fastened, moving the clearing ring gently, and slackening the line.

A disgorging. When the fish has swallowed the bait, this instrument is made use of to disengage the hook, by putting it down the throat of the fish, upon the hook, holding the line tight.

A drag, for flounder lines.



HINTS & OBSERVATIONS.

AS angling is a rational and healthful amusement, it should be followed only when leisure from more important pursuits, and the weather permits. Cold stormy weather, independant of the danger of taking cold, is by no means proper for the diversion. A cloudy day is preferable to a bright one, and the south and west winds better than the north; it is to little purpose to angle with the wind in the east, though I know not if this maxim holds good, in rivers running from east to west,—it is an universal rule never to angle with the wind up the stream.*

* Mr. Taylor sets these niceties at defiance; but waving his opinion, I shall appeal to the experience of every good angler, who would confirm the truth of my remark,—that there are days in which *fish will not bite, and in which the greatest skill will not insure success.*

The air near rivers being cooler and brisk-
er than in other places, occasioned by the
motion of the water, great care must be
taken not to heat yourself, by walking too
fast; but as the angler's thoughts in his walk
to the river, are generally occupied by his
probability of success, this will influence his
pace, if the distance is considerable, and the
weather warm, it will be impossible to avoid
it; I would therefore recommend flannel to
to be worn next the body, which will guard
against the dangerous consequences arising
from a sudden check to perspiration.

The soles of the shoes should be thick,
and the leather well seasoned, they should
now and then be rubbed over with mutton
fat by the fire, this will not only keep out
the wet, but render them soft and easy to
the feet.

Water and all flatulent liquors should be
studiously avoided. Thirst is scarcely to be
allayed by these, though taken in large quan-

tities ; a little good brandy will answer the purpose much better, and may be drank with safety.

Avoid sitting upon the ground, though it may appear dry, yet the heat of the body will cause a moisture, which soon cools, and may be sensibly felt. If the angler through age or infirmity is incapable of standing long, a piece of coarse woollen cloth, doubled two or three times, may be carried in the pannier; and will be very useful to sit upon, especially in fishing for barbel, roach, and dace, where the angler is confined to one spot.

Never continue in the water long. Gudgeons are caught by going in and stirring up the sand and gravel ; this is very pernicious to the constitution,—medical men will tell you why. I have been in the water six hours together, fishing for pike, and experienced the bad effects of it, by violent pains in my head.

It is improper to angle when a river is

high, and discoloured by long continued rains. The reason is very obvious, the fish are then dispersed in every part of the river, in search of food, and have left their usual haunts. It is unnecessary to add a caution against angling in stormy weather, or when it snows, hails, or rains; few will attempt the amusement in such unfavorable seasons.

The best times are, after a moderate shower, in dark cloudy weather, with a gentle breeze, especially after a bright night, and in small rivers when the sluices of mills are drawn up; though it is impossible to say when fish will bite *with certainty* (let seasons be ever so favorable), yet skill and neatness in your tackle, a proper knowledge of the various baits, and the resorts of the different kinds of fish, will insure the best prospect of success, and give you a decided superiority over the inattentive bungler.

Warm weather is the only time for making all kinds of tackle where wax is used,

as the silk will then draw freely, and wrap closer; pitch tempered with tallow is the best for the purpose; shoemakers' wax has rosin in it, which makes it brittle, and it will soon wash off.

Oil your rods in summer with linseed oil, drying them in the sun, taking care the parts lie flat; they should be often turned, to prevent them from warping: this will render them tough, and prevent them being worm-eaten; in time they will acquire a beautiful brown colour. Should they get wet, which swells the wood and makes it fast in the sockets, turn the part round over the flame of a candle a short time, and it will be easily set at liberty.

Never wind your lines on your reel wet, at least when you get home wrap them round the back of a chair, and let them be thoroughly dried, otherwise they will soon rot and cannot be depended on; with this care they will last a considerable time.

It is good angling for chub, perch, and eels, when there is a gentle rise of the river, and the water begins to be discoloured; and for pike, in summer when the river is clearing after a flood.

Some attention should be paid to the colour of an angler's dress; it is natural to conclude that green would be most eligible, as it would vary little from those objects with which fish are familiarized, such as trees growing near the sides of rivers, and herbage on the banks, yet as this particular colour might be disagreeable, I would advise the angler to avoid all strong contrasts to those objects, particularly scarlet, very light colours, and black.

In the foregoing pages, I have given instructions for angling for those fish, with which the Trent abounds, but as some difficulties may occur in the application, I shall add some short observations on rods, lines, and hooks, which may tend to remove them by considering those articles separately.

I may here observe, that the mode of angling with the dead snap for pike, is exactly upon the same principle as angling with the minnow for trout, the tackle for pike being proportionably stronger. I am tempted to make the observation here (though omitted in the proper place), from a conviction that the method will be better understood by the angler, for trout, than if I had written a folio volume on the subject.



RODS.

ANGLE rods should be proportioned in length and strength, to the different fish you design to angle for, they ought to bend regularly, and taper gradually, be light in hand, and spring from the but end to the top. The great error in most rods is, that the play of the rod is in the middle, owing to that part being too weak, and like a waggoner's whip, it is impossible with a rod of this kind to strike or command a fish of any size. The best rods are made in London, not only on account of the superiority of the workmanship, but the materials are so good and thoroughly seasoned, that London rods recover their shape after the exertions of a large fish, and it will be found the least expence to purchase good ones at first. If a thorough knowledge of the amusement, and strict integrity, joined to a very extensive sale of every article of convenience

and use, requisite for an angler, can require a recommendation, I beg leave to mention *Mr. John Higginbotham, No. 91, Strand, London*, whose chearfulness, punctually, and attention to business, will gain him more customers than any panegyric I can possibly compose.

As accidents, however, will unavoidably happen, and no skilful artist may be near to repair them, I shall give a few hints, which may not be altogether useless: Various kinds of wood are used in making angle rods: deal and saw for the but ends; hiccory, ash, and hazle, for the middle parts; and bamboo cane, cabbage tree, brier, and elder, for the tops; these for the tops are cut in joints or lengths, of eight or ten inches, spliced and glued together; after which they are property tapered, with double tooled planes, and fine rasps, finished off with sand paper, and the joints wrapped with silk well waxed; a small piece of whale bone is added to the top, spliced and wrapped in the same

manner. Whatever wood is made use of, the shoots ought to be got in winter, when the sap has descended to the root, and kept a year or two in some dry place, oiling them now and then, with linseed oil, and placing them in such a position that they may not warp. If they are crooked, they may be made perfectly straight, by warming them over a gentle fire. I speak here of ash or hazel, the bamboo cane, brier, and elder are cut into joints, and thick enough when divided lengthways into four pieces, to form the top of the substance required. Bamboo cane is preferable for fine tops; brier is cheaper and little inferior, plenty may be found in hedges of ancient inclosure, which have not been plashed for many years, but it should be thoroughly seasoned before it is split, otherwise the small pieces will be apt to warp in drying; elder is rather brittle, and is never used when cane or brier can be procured of sufficient substance when split, to correspond with the part to which it is intended to be joined.

Yew is much recommended by many authors on angling, but it is very brittle, full of knots, and inferior to bamboo cane or brier.

Rods for pike and barbel, ought to be sixteen feet long, the but ends may be made of red deal, the middle parts of ash, and the tops of hazel, which may be shorter than the other, as it will be difficult to meet with hazels of the length of the other parts sufficiently strong. I must caution the angler against the common practice of taking the bark from hazels, I grant they will dress neater, but it weakens them considerably. Small rings or loops must be placed in a straight direction upon the rods, for the running line; if they are oiled as directed, paint will be unnecessary.

Rods for trout, perch, chub, eels, bream, and flounders, may be finer; and rings on these for the running line will be necessary, and enable you to fish under bushes, and on eminences by the water.

Rods for roach, dace, gudgeons, ruff, bleak, and the smaller tribe of fish with which this river abounds, should not exceed eight or ten feet in length, but as it would be troublesome and expensive to have rods for all these purposes, two may be made to answer every occasion by the application of different tops, except those for the artificial fly, which are made much lighter and upon a different construction; the but end is thick about two feet, and tapered suddenly, that the weight may lie behind as a balance, and prevent the arm being tired by throwing the fly; it should be very elastic, and spring from the but end to the top; it is not necessary to have rings on this rod on account of the size of the fish caught in the Trent, as you seldom take a fish with the fly, in this river, exceeding two pounds weight, and these are chub, (which are easily managed) but the silk with which the rings are fastened, strengthens the rod greatly. A sharp spike screwed into the but end will be particularly useful when you have tired a

fish; for by retiring from the river, and fixing the rod upright in the ground (by means of the spike) you will keep a tight line, your rod will play with every stroke he makes, and you will easily land him with your net. I would recommend spikes to the but ends of all your rods, proportioned to their strength; they will preserve them from many accidents, which they often meet with when laid down, and are no despicable weapon against dogs, with which our villages swarm; a great number which do not come under the description of game dogs, being kept by persons not charged to the church and poor rates, and on that account exempted the dog tax.

Rods should not be kept in too dry a room, the practice of steeping them in water is a bad one, and will soon spoil them.

LINES.

Lines for salmon, pike, barbel, chub, and large bream, are made of silk or hemp, and should not be too hard twisted. In the choice of them, take care that they are even, and free from flaws, otherwise they will not run freely through the rings. The whip-cord lines sold in the country, are sized, rubbed even, and tied very tight in hanks, in this state they look well, but have a very different appearance after they have been in the water; and out of a line of sixty yards, it will be difficult to get twenty yards of one entire piece, even and good. Raw silk makes very good lines, the finer sort twisted together, for salmon, trout, perch, chub, and large bream; and the coarser for pike, barbel, and eels. These as well as lines made of silk (when new) ought to be tied rather tight at both ends, and rubbed with elder or cabbage leaves, and afterwards trailed upon the grass, which will make them soft, and prevent their kinking

Hair lines are proper for roach, dace, white bream, gudgeons, ruff, and bleak, and may consist of six or nine hairs. In the choice of hair, observe that it is round, and springs when strained a little, white and sorrel are the best, black being too coarse for angling, independant of the colour.

In order to make hair lines, soak the hair (being previously washed) in spring water four or five hours, draw it out by the root ends, which tie together, and cut off nearly the whole of what appears weak at the other ends, as the whole cannot be twisted, and it will not diminish that part which is good; divide them into three parts (which are two hairs each, if your line consists of six hairs, and three if of nine), tie a knot at the end of each of these three parts, as regular in distance from the end as you can, that the weight in twisting may bear equally on all; hang each of the small ends on the hooks of your twisting engine, screwed into a door post or other piece of timber, a convenient

height, that you may be able to turn the engine with your right hand, and reach the bottom of the link with your left, which by dividing with your fingers, will prevent the link from uniting till the parts are properly twisted, hanging a small lead weight, about three ounces, of a conical form at the bottom; when each part is sufficiently twisted, advance your fingers slowly up the link, (turning the engine at the same time) till it is twisted to the top, take off the weight, and knot the three parts together, straining the link a little, which will discover a faulty hair. When you have made links sufficient for your line, (which with the silkworm-gut ought not to exceed the length of your rod) let them soak in water two or three hours, and tie them together; the weak ends directed not to be cut off, will here be useful; wrap the ends neatly with waxed silk, and make a noose at each end of the line, the one to fasten to your rod, and the other for the link on which the hook is tied.— Should you want a line immediately, soak

the hair in hot water, it will not injure it, and ten minutes will be sufficient.

The links of lines for the artificial fly should be softly twisted, they fall much lighter on the water, and are greatly superior to lines of silk and hair; the knots are not an objection, as a running line is not necessary in angling in the Trent with the artificial fly except for salmon; the two top links should consist of twelve hairs, the three next of nine, the four next of six, and the five bottom links of three hairs, which with the addition of a yard of silkworm gut, will make the line long enough, and no other number of hairs will twist regular, or bed well together.

Many authors direct the root ends of the hair to be turned to the small ones, that the link may be of equal thickness; if the hair be good this advice is unnecessary, and you will find it very troublesome, the weak ends being tied to the strong ones will continual-

ly break in twisting.—You may make links of nine and twelve hairs, which will be useful for pin and hook lines, for flounders and eels.

I shall purposely omit giving receipts to dye hair, from a thorough conviction, that dyes (especially where copperas is used) are injurious to the hair and soon rot it; the various shades of colour in sorrel hair will furnish the angler with lines proper for most waters discoloured by rain, or running on sand or gravel, especially mixed with white; and for clear waters the white alone will be found sufficient.

Lines of silk or hemp may be coloured by a strong decoction of oak bark, which it is believed renders them more durable, and resists the water, it gives them an excellent russet brown colour, and any shade of it may be obtained, by the time they remain in the decoction, which should be cold.

It may not be improper to observe that the term "running line" is applied to a line which may be lengthened or shortened at pleasure, by means of a reel on the rod, and not to the mode of fishing without a float, suffering the bait to be carried with the stream, which may be done with a common line no longer than the rod, and which is properly termed *fishing by hand*.

FLOATS.

Cork floats are used for pike, barbel, chub, trout, perch, eels, ruff, and flounders, and quill floats for bream, roach, dace, rud, gudgeons, and bleak. Cork floats are necessary in deep water, where more lead is required to sink the bait than a quill float would bear, and are made thus:—Take a cork firm and free from flaws, and with a small red hot iron bore a hole lengthways through the centre, with a sharp knife cut it across the grain about two-thirds of the length, tapering to the end where the hole is bored, and the remaining third rounded

with it (which is the top of the float) in the shape of an egg, the lower end tapering more gradually, resembling in shape the small peg tops children play with. For pike, barbel, and large chub, these floats should be about the size of a bergamot pear, and for trout, perch, eels, flounders, and ruffs, about the size of a small walnut when the green rind is taken off. Some authors direct cork floats to be proportioned to the number of hairs the line consists of, and for a single hair no bigger than a bean; I could never find cork floats so diminutive of any use, for small floats quills answer the purpose much better, and I am certain the two sizes I have recommended will be found sufficient. Quill floats are made as follows:—Take any quantity of swan or goose quills you want, cut off the barrel part from that where the feathers grow, and with a thick piece of wire, wrapped round the end with cotton wool, clear the inside of the quill from the film, put in a small piece of pitch about the size of a sweet pea, and with the

wire force it to the end, ramming it close, this will effectually keep out the water; put a small piece of cotton wool upon the pitch, sufficient when forced close into the quill, to form a space of a quarter of an inch, and upon the cotton add another piece of pitch of the same size as the first, which will secure the cotton, and make the float easily discerned in the water; take a piece of sallow, hazle, or other soft wood, about the same size as the circumference of the quill, and about two inches long, fit it neatly about three-quarters of an inch into the quill and fasten it with a cement made of powdered bee's wax rosin and chalk, melted over the fire in a ladle, dip the plug in when it is sufficiently melted and incorporated and put it immediately into the quill, taper the lower end of the plug, and with the help of a fine straight awl put into it a piece of doubled brass wire the loop end formed into a round eye, and the other twisted, which will pass into the plug like a screw, holding the wire fast with a pair of small pliers, and turning

the float round; the line passes through the eye of the wire, the top of the float is made fast to the line, by a hoop made of the barrel part of the quill, and rather wider than the float to admit the thickness of the line; by means of this hoop the float may be shifted at pleasure, according to the depth you are inclined to fish; the hoops may be dyed red by the following method,—Take some stale urine, and put to it as much brazil wood in powder, as will make it a deep red, then take some fair water, and put a handful of salt into it, and a small quantity of argol, stirring them till they are dissolved, boil them over the fire in a saucepan, and when cold put in the quills well scraped, and let them lie a while in it, then take them out, and put them into the urine made red with the brazil wood, and let them continue a fortnight, when dry rub them with a woollen cloth and they will be transparent. The hoops must be cut with a sharp knife or the quill will split.

HOOKS.

The excellency of hooks depends on their being properly tempered, not too high to snap, or not sufficiently that they may be bent with the fingers; in the choice of them take care that the points are sharp, the beards of a good length, and the shanks not too long; they are made of various shapes, *Ford's* and *Kirkby's* hooks are in the highest estimation; the old hooks with the circular bend will answer very well, if the points do not stand paralel with the shanks. As fish differ so much in size, a great deal must be left to the judgment of the angler in the choice of them, a little experience will soon point out the proper size, but as some directions in a treatise on this subject may be expected, the following table is added for the information of young anglers, first premising, that it is a guide only, where single hooks are used, those for pike and minnow fishing having been before described.

*The Size of Hooks used in Angling in the
 Trent.*

	No	
Salmon . . .	1	} and larger of various sizes.
Barbel . . .	1	
Chub . . .	2	
Trout . . .	3	
Carp . . .	3	
Tench . . .	3	
Bream Carp . .	3	
Bream White . .	9	
Perch . . .	4	} for night lines the common double or single eel hook.
Eels and Eelpouts	4	
Flounders . . .	5	
Greyling . . .	10	
Ruff . . .	9	
Roach . . .	11	
Rud . . .	9	
Dace . . .	12	
Gudgeons . . .	12	
Bleak . . .	13	
Salmon Fry . .	13	
Miller's Thumbs	13	
Minnows . . .	}	smaller
Loaches . . .		

BAITS

Are very numerous, I have recommended those that are natural, and such as fish are accustomed to feed upon, rejecting the amazing farrago, with which many books are crouded; I grant they may catch fish, but the judicious angler will attribute their success, more to the resemblance of some natural bait, than any intrinsic merit of their own. Red paste, for instance, is an excellent bait for roach, but it may be taken for a currant or other red berry, or probably for the spawn of salmon. I shall give some instructions for procuring baits, and keeping them in a proper state for angling.

Fish baits must be perfectly sweet and fresh caught; roach, dace, and gudgeons, may be wrapt in a wet linen cloth, and taken to the place you intend to angle in, if not very distant. Minnows must be kept in bran, which dries up the moisture, they will be stiff at first, and consequently not

spin* so well, the bran will adhere fast to them, but after fishing a short time, it will wash off, and they will be pliable. Very small roach dace or gudgeons must be kept in bran, or they will soon become putrid and so tender that it will be difficult to bait them.

Worms.—Lobworms are caught in the night, after heavy showers, on grafs walks, and sheep pastures, where grafs is short, with the help of a candle and lanthorn; you must move cautiously, for they are quick of apprehension; draw them gently out of their holes, without ripping them, and throw away those that are broken, for they will soon become putrid, and infect the others;

* I was some time at a loss for the reason why the success of fishing with a minnow or other small fish depended on their turning round quick, until I had frequent opportunities of observing in the shallows in summer, the innumerable shoals of very small fish, in which several of them were in the same motion, as if siezed with a vertigo, but from whatever cause it proceeded, whether from some injury, or wanton sport, they were doubtless at that time less able to elude the pursuit of their vigilant devourers, and therefore an easy prey.

an oyster barrel with a leather strap nailed across the top, will be useful to put them in, when you have got as many as are necessary, having ready a good quantity of moss, wet with rain or dew, put it into a large pipkin, or other earthen vessel, proportioned to the quantity of worms, laying it regularly, and forcing it down with your hands, strew the worms on the surface, such as are not injured will soon creep into the moss, and those that do not, must the next morning be picked off and thrown away; it will be necessary to look at them every three or four days, to pick out the dead ones, and they will require fresh moss, at least once a week, or you may wash the moss they were in, squeezing out the water with your hands; they must be set in a cool place, in summer, and with this care, they will keep a month, be clean, tough, and fit to fish with.

Small worms.—There are many kinds of small worms (naturalists reckon upwards of two hundred) but out of this numerous

catalogue not many are used in angling. The best are found in tanner's bark thrown up on heaps after it has been used, rotten thatch, grass mown from garden walks after it has lain some time. Brandlings are found by the sides of old sewers, marsh or meadow worms, in marshy ground by the banks of rivers, and all when scoured are excellent baits; they must be kept in moss as directed for lobworms, a spoonful of cream sprinkled now and then on the moss will greatly refresh them when they grow weak.

Gentles, may be procured at the tallow-chandlers, and should be kept in oatmeal and bran, as bran by itself is too dry; in order to prevent disappointments, coarse fish, such as chub and roach, may be laid in an earthen pot in the shade, and will soon be fly-blown, when the gentles are large enough (but not before) put some oatmeal and bran to them, and they will in two days be well scoured, and fit to fish with, in about four more they become hard, assume

a pale red colour, and soon after change to flies; do not throw the red ones away, roach and dace frequently take the pale ones with a white one in preference to all other baits. As an angler is not always successful, you will often catch a chub or roach, unfit to cook, and unworthy of any body's acceptance, these may be appropriated to this purpose.

Many authors recommend a piece of bullock's liver, suspended by a stick over a barrel of clay, into which the gentles fall, and scour themselves; this is a very bad plan, *clay will not scour them*, and they fall from the liver before they have attained their full size. The plan I have recommended, will be found preferable, and not disgusting even to the squeamish angler, for a short time after the oatmeal and bran are put to the gentles, the fish in which they were bred, will be found perfect skeletons, and may be thrown away.

Pastes.—Red paste is made thus:—Take a large spoonful of fine wheat flour, moisten it with the white of an egg, and work it with your hands, till it is tough, colour it with a little vermilion, (as this is dear red lead will be a good substitute) add a small quantity of honey, or loaf sugar finely powdered, and knead some cotton wool* spread equally over the paste, when pressed flat with your hand, it must be then well worked together, to mix the cotton thoroughly, which will make it hang better upon the hook; a small piece of fresh butter will prevent it becoming hard, and it will keep good a week. White paste is made, by leaving out the vermilion, or red lead, and yellow, by mixing a little turmeric with it. Many authors recommend oil of anniseeds and a variety of other essential oils, to scent paste with, these are communicated as secrets, and having an air of mystery, are eagerly sought after by the young angler;

* Some authors reject the cotton wool in pastes, it is however necessary.

I have tried a variety, but never had reason to suppose *they were instrumental in taking a single fish*, and believe them all "*wasteful and ridiculous expence.*"

Various pastes are recommended, composed of curious ingredients, such as the fat of a heron, and the flesh of a cat or rabbit's leg, the clotted blood of a sheep's heart, and a thousand other fanciful nostrums, the ridiculous trumpery of dreaming ignorance. I shall select a few *excellent receipts as they are called*, to allure and catch fish, extracted from modern authors. I leave the probability of their success to the judgement of the intelligent reader.

"Make up a paste with mulberry juice, hedgehog's fat, oil of water lilies, and a few drops of oil of penny-royal." Brookes, page 176. A man might rack his invention some time for such inconsistent ingredients.

"Take nettles, and cinque foil, chop them

“ small; mix some juice of houseleek with
“ them; rub your hands therewith, throw it
“ into the water, and keep your hands in it,
“ and the fish will come to them.” Best’s
Art of Angling.—Who believes this would
be the case?

The following is from the same author in
his own words.—“ I shall now give the
“ reader the *ne plus ultra* of all these kinds
“ of ointments; which he cannot set too
“ high a value upon. Take cat’s fat, heron’s
“ fat, and the best assafætida, each two
“ drachms; mummy finely powdered ditto,
“ cummin seed finely powdered two scru-
“ ples, and camphor, galbanum, and venice
“ turpentine, of each one drachm, and civet
“ two grains. Make them *secundem artem*,
“ into a thinish ointment with the chemical
“ oils of lavender, anniseed, and camomile,
“ and keep it in a narrow mouthed, and well
“ glazed gallipot, covered with a bladder
“ and leather, and it will keep two years.
“ When you want to use it, put some into a

“ small taper pewter box, and anoint your
 “ *line** with it, about eight or nine inches
 “ from the hook, and when it is washed off
 “ repeat the unction, *probatum est*,” Cour-
 teous reader what think you of these won-
 derful compositions ?

In Brooks is the following receipt. “Take
 “ goat’s blood, barley meal, and lees of sweet
 “ wine, mix them with the lungs of a
 “ goat, boiled and pounded fine; make the
 “ whole into pills, which throw into ponds
 “ or pits, and you may soon catch the fish,
 “ which are intoxicated by eating them.”
 A man might very properly exclaim with
 the carrier in Shakespere’s first part of Hen-
 ry IV. act 2, scene 1, — *Ay, when, canst tell ?*

“ How to bring fish together.” Get the
 “ blood of an ox, a goat,† and a sheep, with

* Surely the author has substituted the word
 “ *line* ” for “ *hail* ” or is it an error of the press ?

† It may reasonably be inferred that the author
 resided in Wales, as the goat seems some how or
 other, to contribute to these wonderful nostrums.

“ the dung of the same creatures, *taken out*
“ *of the small guts*, with thyme, origanum,
“ penny-royal, savoury, elder, garlic, lees
“ of sweet wine of each a like quantity, the
“ fat or marrow of the same creatures, a
“ sufficient quantity, beat all these that they
“ may mix together ; make the whole into
“ lumps, and cast them into ponds, or where
“ fish are, an hour before you purpose
“ to catch them, at which time cast your
“ nets upon them.” Brookes, page 48.

Enough! enough! gentle reader I will not disgust you by transcribing more of these fulsome and abominable receipts: I would ask with what appetite a man could sit down to fish fed on these nauseous mixtures, and they differ little from the food directed to be given to fish in ponds; such as blood, entrails, and dung. As the feeding of fish in ponds, is usually entrusted to the care of servants, and as they will be desirous of diminishing their labour the food will be thrown into the pond, without much regard to the size of the pieces, and the fish being

unable to feed upon it in this state, it will of course become putrid, and the pond, instead of that cleanliness, and purity, so essential to the preservation of the fish, and which constitutes the principal enjoyment of the owner, will in a short time, resemble the offensive slaughter house of a carcase butcher.

The best food for carp and tench, (exclusive of what they obtain in a natural way) is corn of all sorts boiled, till it is soft, crusts of bread, cut into small pieces, and soaked in milk or water, and coarse flour made into paste. Great care must be taken not to give them more at a time than they can soon consume, and whatever food is thrown in, should be distributed in small quantities in various parts of the pond, and more particularly in those places difficult of access to poachers. The reader will pardon this long digression.—I return to the subject of baits.

Boiled wheat and malt,—must be simmer-

ed in milk over a gentle fire in a saucepan, but it must not be suffered to boil fast, as it will burst the corns, or it may be set in a gentle oven all night, and the outward husk taken off; either wheat, or malt, is an excellent bait for roach, dace, and white bream.

Brown and black beetles, are excellent baits for dibbling for large trout and chub, the former have been very scarce for several summers past, owing I apprehend to the inclemency of the winters; they may be seen flying about in hot summer evenings in the months of June or July, or found in the day time, on the oak, maple, or ozier; they must be kept in boxes, with holes to admit the air, and will live two or three days on the leaves of the trees they were found upon. Black beetles are found in the earth under fresh horse dung, by removing the dung, and digging with a trowel; they creep there to deposit their eggs, and the holes they make in the ground, will direct the search for them; these must be kept in an earthen pot, with a little of the earth.

The young brood of wasps and hornets are good baits for trout, roach, dace, and chub, they are however very tender; I omit a long list of caterpillars and grubs, for the same reason, they may be had recourse to in cases of necessity, but the baits I have recommended will be found sufficient.

After having pointed out the baits best calculated to insure success, I shall conclude this subject by the following observation:—An angler ambitious of excelling in the amusement will be convinced, that those baits are best, which fish obtain in a natural way, his province is to present them so as best to hide the deceit, thus the natural fly will seem fluttering on the surface; the worm will appear to have dropt gently from the bank, and to be crawling at the bottom; and the minnow to have received some injury, and exerting its utmost efforts to escape: he must be an attentive observer of nature, and his endeavours will be rewarded with success.

I intended to have concluded these observations with a short treatise on artificial fly fishing, and a list of flies proper for the Trent, and though I despaired of adding any thing to the improvements made in this entertaining part of angling, yet I flattered myself I should be able (by consulting some of the best natural historians) to have given the flies their proper names, arranged them under their respective classes, and to have obviated many doubts which must arise in the mind of every reader, on a perusal of all the authors, who have written on the subject, owing to the diversity of names given to the flies, which are (with very few exceptions) arbitrary and provincial; most of the flies in Walton, Bowlker, and even Taylor's *scientific* treatise, are called after the animal or bird, whose fur or feathers contribute most to the formation of the fly, as the *dun fox*, the *light fox*, the *hare's ear*, the *aven's tail*, the *grouse hackle*, the *brown rail*, and the *woodcock fly*; several are distinguished only by colour, as the *dark claret*, the *golden*

sooty, and the *black blue dun*, with many others which it might be thought invidious to particularize. I do not mean to condemn or depreciate these authors, whose united labours in this particular branch of the amusement, may be consulted with considerable advantage; but not having sufficient leisure to accomplish the undertaking, I shall only suggest the advantages resulting from it; I relinquish the agreeable task with less regret, as there are not any fish in the Trent but what may be taken by the mode of angling I have recommended, and which I have followed with success; I will be ingenuous enough to confess, that the circumstances which have prevented my undertaking it, did not occur, until a considerable part of these observations were printed off. This will appear to have been my original design from the remark in the dedication, that *angling connected as it is with natural history, is a study of greater importance than is generally believed, and worthy the attention of sensible (and I will*

add learned) men. I am well aware of the criticisms which will be made by many, who, not having any taste for this rational recreation, or being susceptible of the tranquillity and content it diffuses, will infer from the performance, that I have endeavoured to dignify an art, truly insignificant, and that my time has been misapplied, in recommending a diversion puerile and trifling.

—————What art thou whose eye
Follows my pen, or what am I that write?
Both triflers. 'Tis a trifling world, from him
That banquets daintily in sleeves of lawn,
To him that starves upon a country cure;
From him that is the pilot of a state,
To him that begs, and rather begs than works.

I fear there are few amusements (out of doors) so rational as angling, or which are productive of that inward peace which it

inspires.* If the smallest blade of grass excites our wonder, and mocks our feeble imitation, what a rich and inexhaustible fund of delight, must the whole animal and vegetable kingdom afford when the volume of nature, is presented to our view arrayed in the most captivating dress.

—Not a tree,
A plant, a leaf, a blossom, but contains
A folio volume. We may read and read
And read again, and still find something new,
Something to please, & something to instruct,
E'en in the *humble* weed.



*It is a general observation that anglers are men of patient and quiet dispositions. Are such men fond of angling, or has the amusement this influence on the mind?

INDEX.

A NGLING closely connected with natural history	116
Angler must be an attentive observer of nature	114
Angler's drefs	83
———apparatus	74
Ant fly for dace	58
Appeal to experienced anglers, <i>note</i>	78
Artificial flies, the names arbitrary and provincial	115
———hints for a list of, proper for the Trent	115
———reasons for omitting them	115
Ash used for rods	86

B

Bad effects of continuing long in the water	80
Baits recommended	102
Bait pans	75
Baiting needles	76
———vessel	28

L

Barbel, how to angle for	28
———caution in angling for	31
Bamboo cane excellent for fine tops	86
Basket-fishing, or pannier	76
Bleak	59
Bracken clock, an excellent fly for dibbling	59
Bream carp	54
———great quantity taken	8
———white	55
Brier makes good tops	87
Bullet condemned in barbel fishing, <i>note</i>	33

C

Canon, or downhill fly.	71
Canvas and woollen bags	75
Carp, how to angle for	38
Cautions against continuing long in the water	80
———drinking water or flatulent li- quors when hot	79
———heating yourself by walking too fast	79
———sitting upon the ground	80
———taking the bark from hazels	88

Caution against winding up lines wet	82
——— in angling for barbel	31
——— chub	43
——— trout	66
——— in trolling for pike : . . .	21
Cement for quill floats	98
Chub their haunts, and method of angling for	41
Clearing ring, what	77
Cockchafer or brown beetle, excellent for large trout and chub	41
Cork floats, directions for making . .	96
Cotton wool recommended in pastes, <i>note</i>	107

D

Dace their haunts, and method of angling for	56
——— small, superior to minnows for chub	61
Danger of drinking water or flatulent liquors when hot	79
Dead gorge for pike	17
Dead snap	24
Directions for dibbling	70
——— feeding fish in ponds . . .	112
Disgorger, what	77

Drag for flounder lines	46
Dyes where copperas is used, injurious	95

E

Eels, the method of angling for . . .	49
——night lines for large	49
Eel-pouts	53
——prey in the night	53
Elder sometimes used for tops . . .	87
Error in many angle rods	85
Extract from Walton on barbel fishing	32

F

Fish would afford wonderful resources if protected	32
Fishery, not injured by night lines for eels	52
Fishing by hand, what	96
Flannel recommended	79
Fleets, supposed to be the ancient course of the Trent	73
——abound with pike, perch, carp, tench, eels, roach, and rud, <i>note</i> . . .	73
Floats how made	96
Flounders; their haunts and method of an- gling for	44
——are fish of prey	45

INDEX.

123

Flounders, pin lines for	45
Ford and Kirkby's hooks, in high estimation	100

G

Gentles, how to breed and scour	105
——the common method condemned	106
——good baits for roach and dace	106
Gimp preferable to wire for the dead gorge	17
Grayling, their haunts and instructions in angling for	43
——minnows not approved as baits for	44
Green and grey drake, recommended for dibbling	71
——too tender for the long line	70
Greet river	72
Gudgeons, the method of angling for	60
——an agreeable amusement for ladies	60

H

Hawthorn fly	74
Hair, directions in the choice of	92
——injured by dyes	95
——lines, directions for making	92
Hazels, caution against taking the bark from	88

Higginbotham, Mr. John, recommended	86
Hints and observations	78
Hooks, directions in the choice of	100
——a table of the various sizes, proper for angling in the Trent	101
——Ford and Kirby's	100

I

Improper to angle when the river is high	80
——in stormy weather	78

L

Landing nets preferable to landing hooks	75
——hooks useful on some occasions	75
Lines hair, directions for making	92
——observations on	91
——silk or hemp, directions for co- louring	95
——silk and whipcord, to prevent their kinking when new	91
Links for eel and flounder lines	95
Lip hooks, their use	37
Live snap for pike	21
——how made	21
Loach, the	60

M

Miller's thumbs	60
Minnows	60
———conjectures on the reason of the suc- cess of minnows turning quick, <i>note</i>	103
Malt boiled, recommended as a ground bait for roach and dace	56

N

Natural baits, recommended	114
Night lines for large eels how made	49
———how baited	51
———method of laying	51
———not injurious to a fishery	53
Numerous baits rejected	102

O

Oak bark, decoction of, to colour silk lines, recommended	95
Observations on the food of fish in ponds	111
———rods	85
———lines	91
———floats	96
———hooks	100
———baits	102
Ointments, their insignificancy	108

Opinion that pike will not prey on tench,
questioned 54

P

Pastes, how made 107

—red, taken for a berry or salmon's spawn 102

Peas disapproved as baits for carp . . 40

Perch, their haunts 35

—swim in shoals 35

Piety of Walton 48

Pike, their haunts 16

—the dead gorge for 17

—the dead snap 24

—the superiority of, to other
methods 27

—the live snap 21

—the most ancient method of
angling for pike 23

—September and October the best months
for 16

Plumbs for barbel and eel fishing . . 76

Plummets to find the depth 76

Pocket hooks for tackle 74

Q

Quill floats, directions for making . . 97

Quills, to dye red - - - - - 99

R

Receipts, curious, to allure and catch fish,
transcribed from other authors 108

——the improbability of their success 108

Reason assigned why the dead gorge is so oft
deserted by pike, *note* - - 27

Reels for the running line, *note* - 12

Roach, their haunts and how to angle for 56

——and dace very capricious - 57

——landing net for - 58

Rods, observations on - - 85

——the best made in London - - 85

——directions for oiling them - 82

——should not be kept in too dry a room 90

——the practice of steeping them in water
condemned - - - 90

Rud bred in the fleets - - - 73

——instructions in angling for - 73

Ruff or pope, their haunts and how to angle
for - - - - - 59

Running line, what - - - 96

——not necessary for the artificial
fly in the Trent except for salmon &c 4

S

Salmon, their haunts and instructions in angling for	- - -	11
———fry, how to angle for	- -	15
Sarcasms bestowed on anglers, why	-	7
September and October the best months for pike	- - - -	16
Shoes should be greased	- - -	79
Silk lines how coloured	- -	95
——different colours used to tie hooks with		76
Silk-worm gut, for bottom links, method of twisting	- - - -	14
Snails, white, a good bait for trout	-	68
———anecdote of the success of		68
Spikes at the but ends of rods recommended	- - - -	90
———good weapons against dogs		90
Stone fly	- - - -	71

T

Taylor, Mr. his scientific treatise on angling	- - . -	115
Tench, baits, and how to angle for	-	53
———their healing nature questioned		54
Things necessary and useful for the angler		74

INDEX.

129

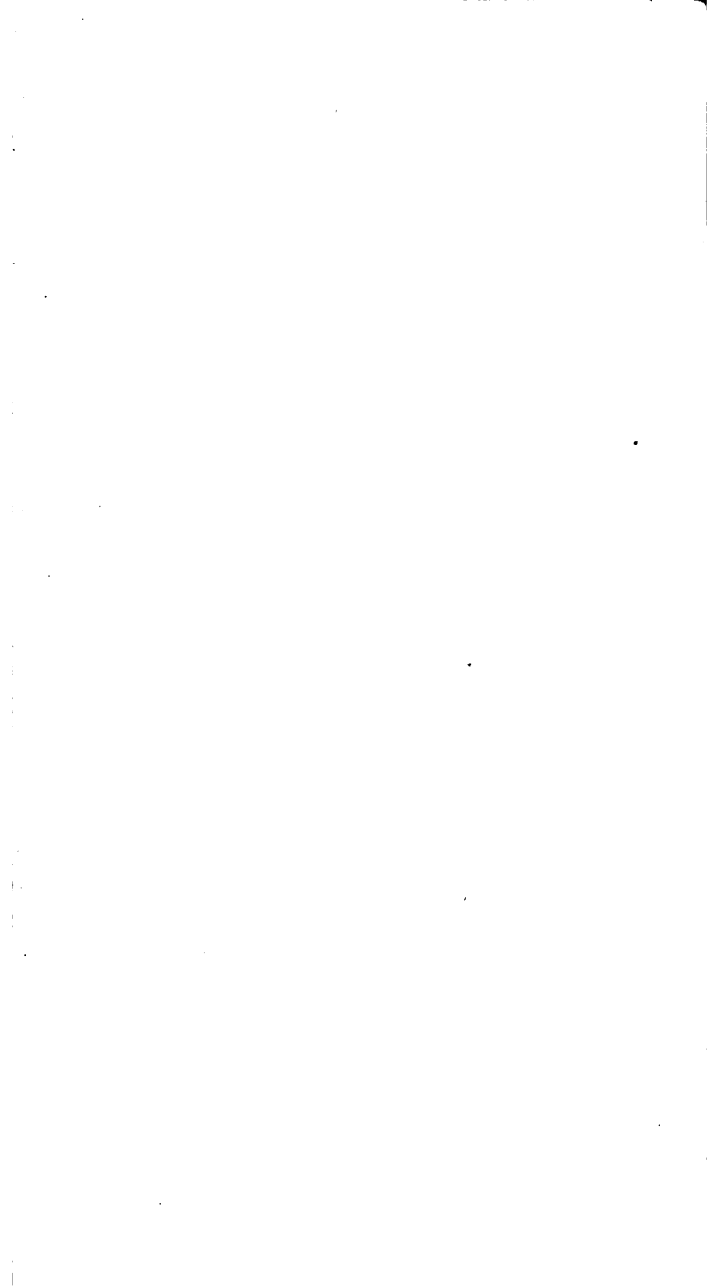
Trout, their haunts and baits for	-	62
———few caught in the Trent	-	62
———method of angling for with a minnow	- - -	63
———the modern hook for the minnow condemned	- - -	66
———another used successfully by the author	- - -	64
———the common hook for minnow fishing	- - -	64
———dibbling for	- - -	70

W

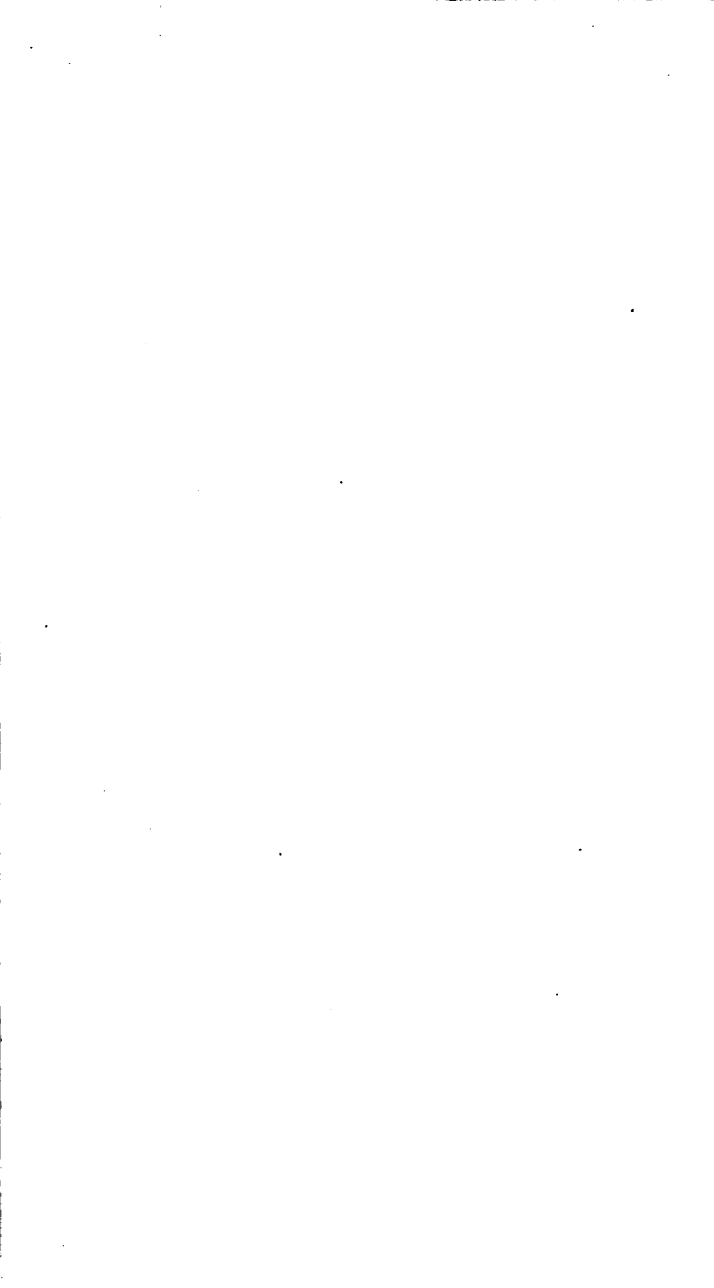
Warm weather, the best for making tackle where wax is used	- - -	81
Wasps and hornets, the young brood of, good baits though tender	-	114
Wax, the best for making fishing tackle		82
Wheat, boiled	- - -	112
Whipcord lines	- - -	91
Winch or reel, <i>note</i>	- - -	12
Wood, various kinds of, used for making rods	- - -	86
———should be got in winter	-	87
Wonderful receipts to take fish; transcribed		

from other authors	- - -	108
Worms, various kinds of	- - -	104
——the best used in angling	- - -	105
——where found, & the method of scour- ing and preserving them for use	- - -	105
Y		
Yew used for tops	- - -	88









YA 01287

